

March 17, 2026

Dear Members of Allentown City Council:

“We love this city.”

In conversations with residents and community leaders across Allentown, this is the comment I hear most often. It is usually followed by a candid list of concerns they hope can be addressed without delay. That duality - deep pride paired with an urgent desire for improvement - is the essence of municipal government. Effective public service requires a commitment to progress, a willingness to confront challenges directly, and a focus on results rather than recognition.

I was born at Sacred Heart Hospital, just three blocks from the public hearing room where you will consider my appointment. For the past twenty years, I have worked every day in downtown Allentown, two blocks in the other direction. This city has shaped my life and career, and it has given me a firsthand understanding of both its strengths and its needs.

Over the last two decades, I have served as part of a leadership team responsible for assembling budgets approaching \$500 million and supporting a workforce that has exceeded 2,200 employees. My work has centered on building responsible budgets, strengthening internal and external communications, and developing efficient business systems that support both residents and employees. I have also played a key role in establishing a Human Relations Commission whose protections now extend to more than one million Pennsylvanians, as well as a Redevelopment Authority that is enabling transformative projects across our region.

As I considered the next step in my career, I reflected on where my experience, leadership, and commitment to public service could have the greatest impact. I am most driven when I am helping to improve people’s lives, and I believe my background aligns directly with the challenges and opportunities facing the City of Allentown.

Each day, I will approach our work with a clear set of guiding questions: Are we honoring the dignity and humanity of the people our decisions affect? Are we acting in the best interests of our residents? Are we providing a safe, supportive environment in which our employees can excel? Do our systems and processes enable timely, effective operations? Are we delivering the highest-quality services at the best possible value? These principles are essential to responsible governance, especially at a time when every taxpayer dollar must be managed with discipline and care.

I am grateful to Mayor Tuerk for the confidence he has placed in me, and I thank each of you for your time, attention, and consideration. I look forward to the opportunity to serve the city that has always been home and to help lead Allentown into its next chapter of growth and progress.

Sincerely,



Frank Kane

Frank Kane

Senior Public Sector Executive

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Senior public sector executive with more than 20 years of leadership experience in state and local government, specializing in community and economic development, intergovernmental relations, and regional policy implementation. Proven track record managing complex public organizations, administering large federal and state funding programs, and leading cross-government initiatives that involve municipalities, nonprofit organizations, and public authorities.

Member of the executive leadership team for a county government serving more than 370,000 residents with a \$427 million operating budget and approximately 2,200 employees. Experienced in developing economic development strategies, directing major federal grant programs, and implementing regional initiatives that strengthen infrastructure coordination, economic opportunity, and community investment.

Recognized for collaborative leadership, strategic problem solving, and the ability to deliver complex public initiatives that require coordination across multiple levels of government and diverse community stakeholders.

Key Skills	Municipal Operations	Government Relations	Policy Implementation
	Executive Leadership	Strategic Planning	Crisis Management
	Financial Management	Capital Programs	Stakeholder Engagement

Experience

Director of Community and Economic Development, County of Lehigh **2013 - 2026**

Lead countywide strategy for economic development, housing, tourism investment, community development, and federal grant administration serving the City of Allentown and 24 municipalities across Lehigh County. Direct major public investment programs and coordinate initiatives among county departments, municipal governments, nonprofit organizations, and regional economic development partners.

- Administered \$105 million in federal pandemic recovery funding (\$72M ARPA; \$33M CARES), supporting economic stabilization, public health response, and municipal recovery initiatives across the county.
- Partnered with the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, Community Action Lehigh Valley, and Catholic Charities to design and administer \$31 million in COVID-19 small business and emergency housing assistance programs.
- Led the incorporation of the Lehigh County Redevelopment Authority, creating a new public authority to advance redevelopment, revitalization, and strategic property reuse projects.
- Designed and implemented county quality-of-life and tourism investment grant programs supporting cultural institutions, tourism promotion, and regional economic development initiatives.
- Directed federal, state, and local grant programs supporting municipal initiatives including community policing and neighborhood investment.
- Led the creation and incorporation of the Lehigh County Human Relations Commission, expanding civil rights protections to residents across Pennsylvania.
- Member of the executive team overseeing regional infrastructure initiatives, including integration of the City of Allentown water and sewer system with the Lehigh County Authority and the city-county 911 consolidation.
- Secured and coordinated funding for regional social service initiatives including the Lehigh County/Allentown warming station and childcare facility expansion.

Director of Human Services, County of Lehigh**2012**

Provided executive leadership and policy coordination for county human services programs supporting vulnerable populations. While serving as Chief of Staff, assumed leadership of the department for approximately one year following the director's resignation, ensuring continuity of operations and interagency coordination across major health and social service programs.

- Directed coordination of county human services programs in partnership with state agencies, federal partners, and nonprofit service providers.
- Served as the county's primary liaison to the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (now Department of Human Services) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health, overseeing regulatory compliance, program oversight, and funding coordination.
- Led cross-agency collaboration to address complex community challenges including housing instability, homelessness, substance use disorders, child welfare, aging services, and intellectual disability programs.
- Managed relationships with behavioral health managed-care providers, including Magellan Health, to coordinate delivery of behavioral health services for county residents.
- Coordinated with federal partners, including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, on program administration and service integration.
- Strengthened collaboration with nonprofit organizations and community partners to improve service delivery and access to human services programs across the county.

Chief of Staff, County of Lehigh**2008-2013**

Senior executive responsible for coordinating government operations, policy implementation, and strategic initiatives across county departments serving more than 370,000 residents. Member of the executive leadership team overseeing an operating budget of \$427 million and a workforce exceeding 2,200 employees. The position functioned as the principal operations and policy coordinator for county government, serving as Chief of Staff to both the County Executive and the Board of Commissioners

- Coordinated executive management of county departments responsible for delivering core government services, supporting departmental leadership overseeing more than 2,200 employees and annual budgets approaching \$427 million.
- Directed cross-departmental policy initiatives and operational coordination among county agencies and served as a senior liaison to municipal governments, regional organizations, and state agencies.
- Managed the county's appointment process for major regional boards, authorities, and commissions including the Lehigh County Authority, Lehigh Valley International Airport, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, Lehigh County Housing Authority, and the Assessment Appeals Board.
- Established a regional Council of Governments (COG) forum bringing together municipal leaders to collaborate on policy issues, share best practices, and coordinate regional initiatives.
- Led the creation of a bi-county Affordable Housing Trust Fund, leveraging mortgage and deed recording fees to support affordable housing development and preservation.
- Coordinated county partnerships that preserved approximately 1,400 units of affordable housing, ensuring long-term affordability for residents.
- Served on the executive team that completed the first successful countywide real estate reassessment in the Lehigh Valley in 17 years, helping implement processes to review 125,000 parcels and adjudicate more than 4,000 appeals.

Director of Public Affairs, County of Lehigh**2006-2008**

Directed comprehensive public affairs, communications, and community engagement strategy for county government, shaping countywide messaging and strengthening public trust.

- Led all internal and external communications, including strategic planning, message development, and cross-departmental coordination to ensure clarity and transparency.
- Oversaw media relations, serving as primary spokesperson, managing press inquiries, briefings, and crisis communications.

Experience continued

Press Secretary, Department of General Services, Commonwealth of PA

2003-2006

Served as senior communications advisor and chief spokesperson for the Commonwealth agency responsible for statewide procurement, capital construction, and management of hundreds of state facilities. Directed enterprise-level communications strategy, policy messaging, and stakeholder engagement for an organization overseeing billions in annual contracting and infrastructure investment. Partnered closely with Governor Ed Rendell's office, cabinet agencies, and legislative leadership to advance high-priority policy, procurement, and infrastructure initiatives.

- Directed media relations and strategic communications for the Department of General Services, ensuring consistent, transparent messaging across statewide procurement, construction, and facilities operations serving dozens of agencies.
- Coordinated communications with the Governor's Office, cabinet agencies, and legislative leaders on high-priority policy initiatives, capital investments, and operational reforms.
- Served as the department's primary spokesperson, managing statewide media engagement on government operations, procurement policy, and major construction and facilities projects.
- Led crisis communications and rapid-response messaging on issues affecting state operations, public infrastructure, and executive-branch priorities.
- Implemented communications strategy for Best Value Contracting, a statewide procurement reform initiative improving quality, accountability, and efficiency in public construction.
- Directed public communications for the development of the Pennsylvania Judicial Center, a major government complex consolidating the state's appellate courts in Harrisburg.
- Supported expansion of the Commonwealth's Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise program, helping increase participation of diverse firms in state contracting.
- Managed communications related to the Pennsylvania Gaming Expansion Act of 2004, including procurement, facilities planning, and regulatory coordination for the launch of casino gaming.
- Helped communicate the Growing Greener II environmental bond initiative, a \$625 million statewide investment in environmental restoration, farmland preservation, and community revitalization.
- Supported statewide messaging on procurement modernization and strategic sourcing initiatives designed to reduce costs and improve efficiency across state government.
- Provided communications leadership for high-visibility infrastructure projects and operational challenges involving the Governor's Office and multiple state agencies.

Regional Leadership

Allentown Economic Development Corporation

Board Member

Allentown Chamber of Commerce

Board Member

Community Action Lehigh Valley (CALV)

Board Member

Discover Lehigh Valley

Board Member

Education

Moravian University

Bachelor of Arts

Psychology