
THIS WEEK IN TRENTON



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July 29, 2010

O'Donnell Selected to Replace Chiappone

Jason O'Donnell was unanimously selected by the Democratic County Committee in the 31st legislative district to replace former Assemblyman Anthony Chiappone, who resigned effective July 16 after pleading guilty last month to filing false campaign finance reports with the state Election Law Enforcement Commission. O'Donnell will serve until November of this year when he must compete in a special election to complete Chiappone's unexpired term, which ends in early 2011.

The 31st District covers all of Bayonne and a southern part of Jersey City.

O'Donnell is on leave as a Bayonne fire captain and is currently serving as Director of Bayonne's Municipal Services Department. A career firefighter who earned a bachelor's degree in fire science from New Jersey City University in 2006, O'Donnell joined the Bayonne Fire Department in 1995 and was promoted to captain on July 1, 2009.

O'Donnell was the preferred candidate of Bayonne Mayor Mark Smith, who became chairman of the Hudson County Democratic Organization last month. He has served as Chairman of the Bayonne City Regular Democratic Committee since 2008 and also serves as a Commissioner on the Bayonne Planning Board.

Jackson Appointed Executive Director of Board of Public Utilities

Richard J. Jackson, a former gas utility executive at South Jersey Gas, who most recently oversaw operations at an oil offloading facility in the Gulf of Mexico, has been appointed executive director of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.

Jackson, who worked at South Jersey Gas for 21 years before joining the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port deepwater port, will replace Victor Fortkiewicz, who left the agency last month. In Louisiana, he was senior vice president of operations for the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port, which provides offloading and temporary storage for crude oil for some of the world's largest tankers. The facility handles 13 percent of the nation's foreign oil and connects by pipeline to 50 percent of the U.S.'s refining capacity.

Legislative Calendar

There were no legislative committee meetings this week and no committee meetings are scheduled for next week.