

Contact

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Top Skills

Crisis Management
Intergovernmental Affairs
Operations Management

Kenneth Paul, MBA, CTA

Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Columbus

Summary

In November 2018, Ken was named Chief of Staff for Mayor Andrew J. Ginther and immediately helped launch the Mayor's Equity Agenda and secured the mayor's re-election, only to be confronted with a global pandemic and a national reckoning over racism and community-police relations. Ken guided Columbus through volatile economic conditions, weathering a \$41 million revenue loss, while investing more than \$250 million in federal stimulus into the community. Amidst a polarized political environment, Ken helped gain overwhelming community support to advance historic police reforms, including amending the City Charter to establish a Civilian Police Review Board and Inspector General. Ken implemented changes necessary to hire an external candidate for police chief for the first time, and helped negotiate additional police reforms through the F.O.P. contract. With new leadership and renewed focus on community policing, Ken is leading the administration to reduce crime from pandemic highs to ensure Columbus remains one of America's safest big cities, increasing police classes while investing in alternative responses to crime including mental health and addiction services.

During the time Ken has served Mayor Ginther, Columbus became America's 14th largest city and the only city in the Midwest to grow by more than 10,000 residents in the last decade. This last year, Ken helped negotiate city infrastructure support for The Ohio State University's Innovation District and Intel's \$20 billion investment in leading-edge chip factories. Combined, these projects will create more than 20,000 jobs and spur population growth projected to top 2 million by 2050, underscoring the region's responsibility to address affordable housing and improve transportation infrastructure. Mayor Ginther has prioritized both, and Ken has joined other public and private leaders to execute a strategy to promote equitable prosperity for the Columbus region.

Ken oversees operations and provides direction and guidance to all department directors who lead more than 8,000 full-time employees and are responsible for an operating budget exceeding \$1 billion. Ken co-chairs the Smart Columbus Board, an outgrowth of the city's successful bid to secure the 2016 USDOT Smart Cities Challenge. He serves on the Executive Board for the North Market Development Authority and Experience Columbus, and is a member of the Columbus Sports Commission and Confluence Community Authority. Currently, Ken also serves on the search committee to identify the next executive director for the Community Shelter Board.

Experience

City of Columbus

15 years 6 months

Chief Of Staff

November 2018 - Present (3 years 9 months)

City of Columbus

Deputy Chief of Staff

January 2016 - November 2018 (2 years 11 months)

Columbus, OH

Chief of Staff to the Council President

February 2007 - December 2015 (8 years 11 months)

Columbus, Ohio

The Ohio Society of CPAs

Assistant Manager of Governmental Affairs

February 2003 - February 2007 (4 years 1 month)

Ohio Senate

Legislative Aide

August 1999 - February 2003 (3 years 7 months)

Education

Franklin University

Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.), Leadership · (2003 - 2005)

Ohio University

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Political Science and Government · (1994 - 1998)