



County of Onondaga
Office of the County Executive

J. Ryan McMahon II
County Executive

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Media Release

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County Executive Ryan McMahon Announces Promotion of Two Employees

Promotions take effect in February

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – County Executive J. Ryan McMahon, II announced the promotion of two new employees today. Odean Dyer will join the Onondaga County Department of Transportation (DOT) as Deputy Commissioner and Melinda “Mindy” Gerken will become Head Operator at the Department of Water Environment Protection (WEP).

Mindy Gerken started with Onondaga County in 2002 as a Wastewater Tech I. She worked her way up to Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, Senior Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator and finally Principal Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator.

As Head Operator, Gerken will be responsible for the operation of our advanced multimillion dollar facilities. She will also oversee the daily operations of our wastewater treatment infrastructure and ensure compliance with critical environmental standards. Head Operators must also possess a certification from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Gerken will be one of six Head Operator’s at WEP and the first female to ever hold the position.

Odean Dyer, a civil engineer, joins the team at DOT after serving as Water Systems Construction Engineer at the Department of Water Environment Protection. Prior to joining Onondaga County, he served as Facilities Engineer in the City of Syracuse. Dyer also has an impressive background in the private sector having served as a Construction Manager at C&S Companies. Dyer is a graduate of Syracuse University’s L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science. He is the first African-American to hold the title of Deputy Commissioner at DOT.

McMahon said, “Onondaga County truly has the greatest workforce and I am thrilled to announce the promotions of Odean and Mindy. Addressing our infrastructure needs is a top priority of my administration and I am confident that Mindy and Odean will help us get the job done.” McMahon continued, “We are also fortunate to live in a diverse community and my administration will continue to work every day to ensure our workforce reflects where we live and the people we serve.”

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