



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District *of* Greater Chicago

Press Release

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Governor Rauner appoints veteran state leader to MWRD Board of Commissioners

Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner appointed Chicago resident Ken Dunkin to a vacant MWRD Board of Commissioners seat on May 18, 2018.

In a statement, Rauner spokeswoman Rachel Bold said, “Ken Dunkin has well represented his community and his constituents in the Illinois House of Representatives. On the MWRD board he can continue his commitment to public service and the taxpayers.”

Commissioner Dunkin was born on February 12 in Chicago and raised in the Cabrini Green housing projects on the city’s near North side. After graduating from Lincoln Park High School, Commissioner Dunkin earned his Associate Degree from Harold Washington College, his Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science from Morehouse College and his Master’s Degree from the School of Social Service Administration at The University of Chicago.

Commissioner Dunkin worked as a social worker for many years. He was the Director of the Robert Taylor Boys and Girls Club of Chicago. He also worked as a consultant for the City of Chicago Department of Health and Department on Aging. He interned with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Care Financing Administration and United States Senators Paul Simon and Wyche Fowler of Georgia (1986-1993). Commissioner Dunkin was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court as a member of the Attorney Registration Disciplinary Commission and the Boards of the Chicago International Film Festival, Lawson YMCA, Near North Health Services Corp. and he is a member of Phi Beta Sigma fraternity.

Commissioner Dunkin was elected to and served in the Illinois House of Representatives from 2002-2017 representing constituents, non-profits and businesses of the 5th District. He served on various committees including: International Trade & Commerce, Financial Institutions, Insurance, Mass Transit, Chairman of Appropriations-Higher Education, Telecommunications, and



Chairman of Tourism and Conventions. He was also Chairman of the Illinois House and Senate Legislative Black Caucus. He was the Chief Sponsor for the Illinois Film Tax Credit. This legislation generated thousands of union and non-union jobs throughout the state and millions of dollars in local and state tax revenue. The film credit encouraged major motion pictures to be filmed in Illinois.

As State Representative, Commissioner Dunkin fully supported major MWRD initiatives during his legislative tenure. One of the first was in 2004 when the General Assembly granted the MWRD stormwater management authority for Cook County. In 2012, the MWRD’s pension statute was modified to increase required employee contributions for “Tier I” employees and change the way in which the MWRD calculates its required contribution and tax levy. In 2014, the Resource Recovery Act was instituted to allow the MWRD to sell recovered resources or renewable energy resources resulting from MWRD operations. Also that year the legislature made it possible for the MWRD to purchase real property in flood-prone areas and to proceed with local stormwater projects where previously only regional projects were authorized. The General Assembly also amended the Illinois Environmental Protection Act to provide that the MWRD’s Exceptional Quality biosolids may register with the Illinois Dept. of Agriculture as a soil amendment.

Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwrdd.org) is an award winning, special purpose government agency responsible for used water treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.