

GLENN M. CANNON, Esq., JD, LLD (h.c.), MPM, BS, EMT-P

Director Glenn Cannon is a Pittsburgh native who has been extensively involved in emergency communications, emergency management, and public safety services at the city, county, state, and federal levels.

In January 2011, Governor Tom Corbett appointed him as Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security Advisor. PEMA coordinates all state agency response to support county and local governments in the areas of civil defense, disaster preparedness, planning, response to and recovery from man-made or natural disasters.

Prior to that, Mr. Cannon served as an Assistant Administrator in the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency, where he was in charge of Disaster Operations for the United States and its territories. Mr. Cannon went to FEMA in June of 2006 to become part of a small group of highly trained and experienced emergency management leaders, brought on in the wake of Hurricane Katrina to build a “new” FEMA.

One of Mr. Cannon’s initiatives at FEMA was to establish the new Division of Disaster Emergency Communications with the mission of providing and integrating Federal communications support to emergency responders at all levels of government. The DEC Division worked with States to develop communications plans, identify gaps, and enhance communications operability, interoperability and continuity. Mr. Cannon also served on the Joint Telecommunications Resources Board, The National Communications System Committee of Principles and co-chaired the S&T IPT Interoperability Project (where he was the originator and sponsor of establishing Project 25 testing by an independent laboratory).

Prior to his federal service, he worked as the Manager of Public Safety for M/A-COM Wireless (now Harris). While there he was responsible for business development and customer relations within the public safety market. He served for 6 years on the International Chiefs of Police Committee for Communications and Technology, and represented the company at functions held by APCO, IACP, IAFC and the ICMA. He also directed the company’s activities in the various regulatory and standard development bodies that affected public safety radio communications. He had significant responsibilities for the development of the State of Florida’s IP-based statewide communication system. Florida still serves as a model today for statewide interoperability.

In October 1996, Glenn was appointed as Allegheny County's first ever Manager/Chief Operating Officer. In that role he was responsible for the day to day operations of County Government serving 1.4 million people.

Prior to joining the County, Glenn was the Florida State Fire Marshal. In that role he was responsible for activities such as fire and arson investigation, fire prevention and inspection activities, the State Fire Laboratory and the State Fire Academy. Before that he served 3 years as the Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority.

In 1986 Glenn was named by Mayor Richard Caliguiri as Director of the Public Safety Department for the City of Pittsburgh. He had total responsibility for nearly 2,700 employees working in Police, Fire, EMS, Building Inspection and Administration, including 911. He also served as the City's Emergency Management Coordinator. During his time there Mr. Cannon was responsible for creating and implementing a number of programs such as Crimestoppers, WEED and SEED, and DARE. He implemented the City's Enhanced 911 system and created the City's first Arson and Nuisance Bar Task Forces.

Director Cannon began his Pittsburgh public services career in 1975 when he was hired by Mayor Pete Flaherty to plan, implement and operate a city-wide mobile intensive care/advanced life support ambulance system. This was in the very early days of paramedic service. He is the founder and first Director of the Pittsburgh Paramedic Rescue Program. During the years 1975–1986 he headed the City's newly created Emergency Medical Services Department. He established the City's first River Rescue Unit, first Specialized Rescue Units and the City's first Hazardous Materials Response Team.

Glenn Cannon graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education, holds a Master's Degree in Public Management from Carnegie Mellon University and a law degree from Duquesne University. In 2010 he received an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from IUP. In December 1999, Pittsburgh Magazine named him one of the Top 100 Pittsburghers of the Century, which also named such notables as Andrew Carnegie. He is also a graduate of the National Emergency Management Executive Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Mr. Cannon has been a partner in the Pittsburgh law firm of Kennedy, Cannon & DeVinney. He has lectured at FEMA's National Emergency Management Institute in their Leadership Program. He has authored and published numerous professional articles.

He is currently an Adjunct Faculty member of the Center for Disaster Management in the Graduate School at the University of Pittsburgh and teaches as a Visiting Senior Lecturer. He is also a management consultant to the Allegheny County Department of Emergency Services.