

# Treadwell to retire as Operation Oswego County director

Has served for nearly 40 years

BY ERIC REINHARDT  
ereinhardt@cnybj.com

OSWEGO — He's been a voice and advocate for economic development since joining Operation Oswego County in 1983, and executive director L. Michael Treadwell is in his final months in that role.

Treadwell plans to retire at the end of this year, the economic-development organization said in a July 6 announcement.

Besides leading Operation Oswego County, Treadwell also serves as the CEO of the County of Oswego Industrial Development Agency (IDA). The IDA is a public-benefit corporation that the Oswego County Legislature established in 1976, which has functioned as a "major economic partnering agency in the county."

Treadwell's achievements along the way have included the Exceptional Commitment Award from the Greater Oswego Chamber of Commerce in 1996

and the Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) designation from the International Economic Development Council in 1996. In addition, the New York State Economic Development Council named Treadwell the Economic Developer of the Year for New York State in 2004.

"It is my pleasure to have served on the board of Operation Oswego County and to have worked alongside Mike Treadwell," Ellen Holst, president of the Operation Oswego County board of directors, said. "His goal has always been to assist, expand and support economic and business development across Oswego County. The knowledge and experience that he has brought has been invaluable to the growth and development of our county and our business partners."

Throughout his time at Operation Oswego County, Treadwell has been active on numerous boards and with organizations that impact the Oswego County and Central New York economies. They include Oswego County Workforce Development Board, New York State Economic Development Council, Northeastern Economic Developers Association, International Economic Development Council, Central New York

Regional Planning & Development Board, and the Central New York Regional Economic Development Council, co-chair of the Local Planning Committee for both the Oswego and Fulton Downtown Revitalization Initiatives, and SUNY Oswego Start-Up NY advisory council, per the Operation Oswego County announcement.

"It's been an honor and a privilege to serve alongside Michael Treadwell on the County of Oswego IDA and Operation Oswego County boards. Michael has admirably served Oswego County, our business community and the region's economic development organizations for nearly four decades and his knowledge and experience will be profoundly missed," Gary Toth, chair of the County of Oswego IDA and former member of the Operation Oswego County board, said.

Prior to joining Operation Oswego County, Treadwell worked for the South Carolina State Development Board from 1973-1983. In that time, he served as a research and marketing analyst in the planning and research division between 1973 and 1979. Then, between 1979 and 1981, he served as the administrator of economic-development research for the planning and research division; and from 1981 to 1983, he served as an industrial representative in the economic-development division.

Treadwell graduated from the University of Georgia in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in geography, the University



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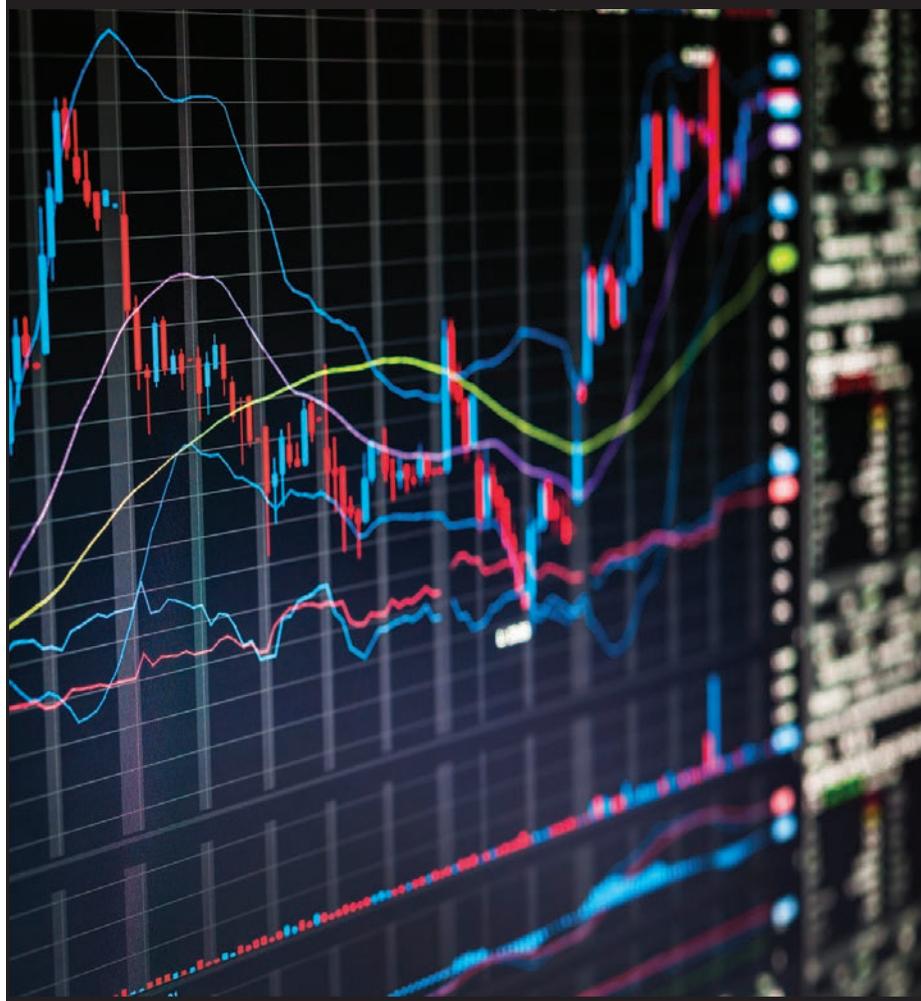
L. Michael Treadwell plans to retire from Operation Oswego County, Inc. at the end of this year. He has served as executive director since joining the economic-development organization in 1983.

of South Carolina in 1973 with a master's degree in geography, and the University of South Carolina in 1981 with an MBA.

He also graduated from the University of Oklahoma's Economic Development Institute in 1977, Operation Oswego County said.

To select Treadwell's successor, a committee is working with the St. Louis, Missouri-based Next Move Group and posted the opening for the position on June 21. The committee working on the national search includes members of the executive committee of the Operation Oswego County board, the County of Oswego IDA, legal representation, and the Oswego County Legislature, Operation Oswego County said. ■

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## N.Y. Cracks Down on "Gifting," Other Unlicensed Sales of Cannabis

Many clients eager to start a recreational cannabis business have asked us when they can start selling adult-use cannabis to consumers. Although the possession and use of cannabis is now legal in New York state, that does not mean retail sales of cannabis are legal as well.

New York's Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) has yet to release regulations governing the application process for retail dispensary licenses. Still, many businesses across the state have taken to "gifting" cannabis. This occurs when a customer buys an unrelated product or membership and is given cannabis for free. Businesses are attempting to profit off newly legal recreational cannabis before its sale is officially regulated. However, on Thursday, July 8, OCM publicly posted cease-and-desist letters that were sent to 66 cannabis storefronts calling for the end of "gifting" and other similar unlicensed sales methods.

The letters — a sample of which can be found at: [https://cannabis.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/06/enforcement\\_letter\\_generic\\_0.pdf](https://cannabis.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/06/enforcement_letter_generic_0.pdf) — specifically state that unlicensed sales of cannabis are illegal, including the practice of "gifting." OCM warned of potential monetary and criminal penalties should unlicensed sales continue. The letters were intended to serve as a warning, but Tremaine Wright, chair of the Cannabis Control Board (CCB), said last month that the CCB would not continue to "play nice" forever. Some storefronts have argued that "gift-



**DUSTIN M. DORSINO & JEFFREY B. SCHEER**  
*Viewpoint*

ing" is permitted under Article 222 of the New York Penal Code, which permits the transfer of up to 3 ounces of cannabis to a person over the age of 21. However, when the transfer of cannabis only happens upon the purchase of something else, it is unlikely that state cannabis regulators will see this activity as anything other than a sale of cannabis itself.

Clients looking to start a recreational cannabis business in New York state should proceed with caution. New York is still months away from its first retail sale of cannabis and such sales are prohibited unless properly licensed. Bond's cannabis attorneys continue to closely monitor developments to the rules and regulations surrounding this state's cannabis industry.

*Dustin M. Dorsino is an associate and Jeffrey B. Scheer is a member (partner) at the Syracuse-based law firm Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC. Contact Dorsino at [ddorsino@bsk.com](mailto:ddorsino@bsk.com), and contact Scheer at [jscheer@bsk.com](mailto:jscheer@bsk.com). This Viewpoint article is drawn and edited from Bond's website.*