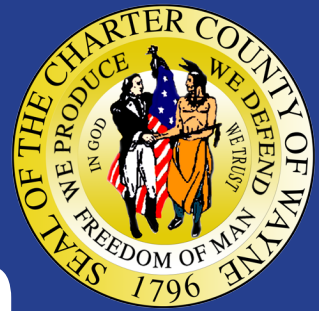


Wayne County Commissioner

Raymond E. Basham

January



Serving the Charter Township of Brownstown, Flat Rock, Gibraltar,
Huron Charter Township, Rockwood, Romulus and Taylor.

Wayne County Commission votes to move forward in patrolling fraud and corruption

The Wayne County Commission recently voted to approve an ordinance setting up a new method of reporting and investigating fraud within the county with the institution of the Wayne County Fraud and Corruption Unit within the prosecutor's office.

The ordinance, initiated by Commissioners Ilona Varga (D-Lincoln Park), Raymond E. Basham (D-Taylor) and others, and co-sponsored by Commissioners Gary Woronchak (D-Allen Park) and Joseph Palamara (D-Grosse Ile), was unanimously supported.

"This is a tremendous accomplishment in that it will serve as a county-wide fraud ordinance," Commissioner Raymond Basham said. "The new hire will enable vertical prosecution to take place and will service not just the executive's office, but the county as a whole."

In December the commission approved a \$150,000 package to fund the position with \$85,000-\$90,000 designated as the base salary and the remainder going toward benefit costs.

According to the prosecutor's office candidates must be knowledgeable in police department operations as well as have a firm grasp of the legal system.

The job description of the position is expected to contain vertical prosecution where, from the time he or she receives a call over alleged wrong-

doing, the individual will move forward with the investigation process and continue right up to prosecution if necessary.

However, it remains unclear just how the funding issue will be resolved because of legal differences stemming between commission counsel and corporate counsel.

The Commission's Office of the Auditor General has contended for several years that having the Inspector General position under the jurisdiction of the CEO was in direct violation of the Fraud Investigative Police.

The argument included: it posed a conflict with the county's fraud ordinance; the individual reported solely to the CEO; they lacked investigative immunity meaning a person or law enforcement agency who is insulated by state law from slander or libel lawsuit by the person being falsely accused; and only allowed the Prosecuting Attorney Office to investigate allegations of wrongdoing related to county employees.

"With one individual assigned to patrol such matters, we can be assured findings will be comprehensive and accurate," Basham said. "The commission is continuing to try and find ways to assure Wayne County is capable and cost-efficient and this is another manner in which we can achieve that."

Wayne County's Compass paves way for commuters during winter's rough ride

The winter commute throughout southeast Michigan will be much more tolerable this season thanks to Wayne County's state-of-the-art equipment designed to help motorists fight the perils of ice and snow.

The county recently unveiled a tracking system which allows drivers the opportunity to locate where any of its 148 snowplows/salt trucks are working, which areas have already been treated or cleared and the directions in which they are heading.

Commissioner Basham is encouraging Wayne County residents to utilize new technology that will help motorists better manage their commute during snowstorms.

Compass, the Wayne County Department of Public Works' new automatic vehicle locator system (AVL), is free and accessible by logging on at compass.waynecounty.com.

By opening up this page, drivers will receive real-time information on road conditions for planning their commutes.

In addition, 18 maintenance vehicles have been equipped with video cameras to allow view-

ers a visual of what plow drivers are experiencing.

"With winter upon us we need to be prepared for the ever-changing driving conditions we experience in southeast Michigan," Basham said.

"With Compass we have a system that will allow us to examine and then execute the precautions needed to commute safely to and from our destinations."

According to Robert Conrad, director of the road division, Compass will supply the county with in-house information on its vehicles.

That information includes truck speed, salt and brine usage, spread patterns, lane location and whether the truck's blade is up or down.

Compass also uses information from a variety of sources, including truck GPS units, cellular connection, Google maps and Michigan Department of Transportation freeway cameras.

Weather conditions, county events and access of MDOT's freeway cameras are also available.

The interactive system is the first of its kind in Michigan and does replace the aging AVL system at a cost of \$149,000 which is drawn from the county's road budget fund.

County forms partnership with Project SEARCH

Partnership is vital to the success of any program. Therefore Wayne County's inaugural partnership with Project SEARCH continues to pave the way for young adults with disabilities to gain and maintain employment through training and career exploration.

Project SEARCH is a one year, high school transition program providing training and education leading to employment for individuals with disabilities. The program occurs on-site at a high status community business and serves as a workforce alternative for students in their final year of high school.

Students apply into the program and are accepted through a selection committee process.

"Our first-year partnership with Wayne County is moving along quite well," said Lekisha

Franklin-Shorter, transition specialist and Project SEARCH coordinator. "I am impressed with the staff at Wayne County and our students are committed to learning. When they arrive at work, they take on their assignments and are determined to get them done. There are no issues and no concerns. Their maturity level improves because they are involved with adults and it shows in their overall character."

The cornerstone of Project SEARCH is complete immersion in a large business. Daily students report to the host business - and in this case it involves various departments as Health and Human Services, the Executive's Office and in communication - gather employability skills in the classroom and learn job skills while participating in either internships Internships or professional situations during the year.

County Contacts

Taxpayer Assistance	(313) 224-5990
County Executive	(313) 224-0366
County Commission	(313) 224-2383
County Clerk	(313) 224-6262
County Prosecutor	(313) 224-5777
Register of Deeds	(313) 224-5850
Sheriff	(313) 224-2222
Circuit Court	(313) 224-5260
Friend of the Court	(313) 224-5300
Probate Court	(313) 224-5709
Birth & Death Records	(313) 224-5536
Children & Family Service	(313) 833-3464
Health Department	(734) 727-7000
Library For the Blind	(734) 727-7300
Marriage Licenses	(313) 224-5520
Parks:	(734) 261-1990
Chandler Aquatic Center	(313) 822-7665
Elizabeth Park Marina	(734) 675-8051
Huron Clinton Metro Parks	(800) 477-2757
Inkster Valley Golf Course	(734) 722-8020
Warren Valley Golf Course	(313) 561-1040
Poison Control	(800) 222-1222
Potholes Hotline	(734) 955-2331
Public Services — Roads	(734) 955-9920
Senior Services	(734) 727-7373
Veterans Affairs	(313) 224-5045
West Nile Virus Hotline	(888) 668-0869
WIC Program	(313) 876-4555

Special Committee on Ethics to finish work on county's ethics ordinance started by task force

A Special Committee on Ethics has been named by Wayne County Commission Chairman Gary Woronchak to finish preparing the county's first comprehensive ethics ordinance for final approval by the commission.

The committee will take the draft ethics ordinance presented last month by the commission's Ethics Task Force and work out the details of how it will be enforced and funded.

Woronchak, D-Dearborn, will serve on the Special Committee along with Commission Vice Chair Alisha Bell, D-Detroit, Vice Chair Pro-Tem Laura Cox, R-Livonia, and Commissioner Irma Clark-Coleman, D-Detroit.

Chairing the Special Committee will be Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, D-Livonia, who also chaired the Ethics Task Force that brought the draft to this point. Other Ethics Task Force members included Bell and Commissioners Diane Webb, D-Garden City, Tim Killeen, D-Detroit, and Ilona Varga, D-Lincoln Park.

"The Ethics Task Force worked extensively together to put this document together," Commissioner Raymond Basham said, "and the county will benefit greatly from their service."

The Ethics Task Force was created one year ago. The ethics ordinance was expected to take a year to develop, so the process is on schedule.

An ethics ordinance generally sets standards of conduct for officials and employees and rules for disclosure and openness designed to avoid conflicts of interest and improper business practices.

Ethics policies currently exist in the county's procurement ordinance, which sets policy for contracting.

As part of its deliberations, the task force examined ethics ordinances from other governments, discussing what best practices could be applied to Wayne County.

Call 2-1-1 to access human services through United Way

Every hour of every day, hundreds of people need essential human services - they are looking for training, employment, food pantries, help for an aging parent, addiction prevention programs for their teenage children, affordable housing options, support groups and ways of becoming part of their community. 2-1-1 allows people to give help and to get help.

2-1-1 is an easy to remember telephone number that, where available, connects people with important community services and volunteer opportunities. In 2010, 2-1-1 services in the United States answered more than 16.4 million calls.

Implementation of 2-1-1 is spearheaded by The United Way and information and referral agencies in states and local communities.

VVMF National call for photos seeking to honor Vietnam Vets

The National Call for Photos is a campaign by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) to collect a photograph for each of the more than 58,000 men and women whose names are inscribed on The Wall. Collected pictures will be used in the Education Center at The Wall and can also be found on The Virtual Wall at www.VVMF.ORG.

There are 2,663 names on The Wall from Michigan: 2,662 men and 1 woman. To date, they have located photos of more than half of them. Half, however, is not enough.

Every single name on The Wall deserves to be honored. Every single service member who gave their life deserves to be seen, and to have future generations see them as more than just a name on The Wall.

The VVMF is encouraging citizens to contact their organization to share photographs and stories of those they knew who gave their lives in Vietnam. This information will be used to tell the stories behind the names on The Wall.

Those interested in contributing photos or information for the project can contact Lisa Lark via email at LisaLark@VVMF.ORG or by phone at 313-410-8477.

COMMUNITY LINKS

[Brownstown Township](http://www.brownstown-mi.org)

www.brownstown-mi.org

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[City of Flat Rock](http://www.flatrockmi.org)

www.flatrockmi.org

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[City of Gibraltar](http://www.cityofgibraltar.net)

www.cityofgibraltar.net

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[Huron Township](http://www.hurontownship-mi.gov)

www.hurontownship-mi.gov

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[City of Rockwood](http://www.rockwoodmi.org)

www.rockwoodmi.org

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[City of Romulus](http://www.romulusgov.com)

www.romulusgov.com

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[City of Taylor](http://www.cityoftaylor.com)

www.cityoftaylor.com

Feel Free To Contact My Office

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Email: rbasham@co.wayne.mi.us

2011-2012 Committee Assignments

Wayne County Commission
Committee of the Whole
Chairman, Committee on Public Services
Committee on Public Safety, Judiciary & Homeland Security
Committee on Audit

*All Wayne County Commission meetings are open to the public.
Please call 313-224-0903 for dates, times and locations.*