



---

**Brooke Blackwell, Press Secretary**

(O) 313.224.5925 (C) 313.580.2101

---

**For immediate release**

Dec. 1, 2011

## **Ficano's executive appointments approved by commission**

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano's appointment of three new high-level members of his administration, including former U.S. Attorney Jeffrey G. Collins, was approved Thursday by the Wayne County Commission.

Collins, a practicing lawyer in Detroit, will serve as deputy county executive for the state's most populated county. He was a U.S. attorney from 2001-2004 after being nominated by President George W. Bush, supervising more than 200 employees at one of the largest Department of Justice offices in the country. Prior to his federal appointment, Collins was a judge in the Michigan Court of Appeals, Wayne County Circuit Court and Detroit Recorder's Court.

In addition to Collins, Raymond L. Byers was approved as head of economic development and Zenna Faraj Elhasan as corporation counsel.

Byers held various corporate leadership positions in government relations at Ford Motor Co. during a career spanning more than 30 years. Since 2006, he has handled various economic development issues at the Center for Automobile Research.

Elhasan has been a partner in the Detroit-based Allen Brothers law firm since 2004 and an assistant corporation counsel for Dearborn Heights since 2006.

Executive Ficano said the new members of his team have the kind of impeccable credentials that will help Wayne County provide a transparent, efficient government.

"As a leader, it's important to have people beside me who I can trust and rely on," said Ficano. "We are going to restore trust in government one day at a time."

Commissioner Kevin McNamara opposed the appointments of Collins and Elhasan. Commissioners Burton Leland, Laura Cox and Bernard Parker also opposed the appointment of Elhasan. Byers' appointment was approved unanimously. Commissioner Martha Scott was absent from the proceedings.

###



[www.twitter.com/robertficano](http://www.twitter.com/robertficano)  
[www.twitter.com/waynecountymi](http://www.twitter.com/waynecountymi)



[www.facebook.com/RobertFicano](http://www.facebook.com/RobertFicano)  
[www.facebook.com/pages/Wayne-County-Michigan/49314965523](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Wayne-County-Michigan/49314965523)