



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OAKLAND COUNTY TO RELEASE COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

PONTIAC, MI - August 22, 2006 - Oakland County's Department of Community & Economic Development and its Community & Home Improvement Division will release the most extensive housing study ever done in Oakland County. The media and interested parties are invited to attend a briefing on the report on Tuesday, August 29, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. in the Oakland County Commissioners Auditorium, 1200 N. Telegraph in Pontiac. Dr. Dale Thomson, formerly of the Wayne State University Center for Urban Studies, and lead author of the assessment, will present the findings and recommendations at the forum. County Executive L. Brooks Patterson will host the event.

The report, produced by Wayne State University's Center for Urban Studies, will help Oakland County, local communities and the business community identify gaps in existing housing inventories, develop strategies and prioritize limited resources to meet future housing needs across all income levels in Oakland County. The study addresses economic conditions, population characteristics; housing stock; housing availability and affordability; special needs housing; housing delivery systems and resources; land use inventory and analysis, housing constraints; existing and projected housing needs; housing indicators as future measures and recommendations.

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L. Brooks Patterson, Oakland County Executive
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“This landmark study, the first of its size and scope anywhere in the country, will help Oakland County form the foundation for a stronger and more vibrant economy,” County Executive L. Brooks Patterson said. “We can't have economic growth and stability in our county without meeting the housing needs of our communities.”

The study is a collaborative effort of the Community & Home Improvement Division, the Oakland County Business Roundtable's Quality of Life committee and the Task Force on Homelessness and Affordable Housing. The Quality of Life's Housing Subcommittee develops and measures housing indicators to address the supply of housing available to all income groups to improve the quality of life for all county residents. The subcommittee concluded in 2003 that a comprehensive housing needs assessment would be valuable and made the recommendation to the county executive. Funding came from Oakland County's federal HOME Investment Partnerships Grant (U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development) and a technical assistance grant from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

The complete report will be posted on the County's website at www.oakgov.com/chi/info_pub/hna.

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