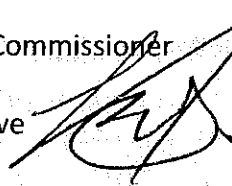


TO: William Bolle, 52nd District Court – Chief Judge
Michael Bouchard, Sheriff
Bill Bullard, Clerk / Register of Deeds
Jessica Cooper, Prosecuting Attorney
Michael Gingell, Board Chairperson
Nanci Grant, Circuit Court – Chief Judge
Linda Hallmark, Probate Court – Chief Judge
Andy Meisner, Treasurer
John McCulloch, Water Resources Commissioner

FROM: L. Brooks Patterson, County Executive 

SUBJECT: Budget Projections for FY-2012 - FY2015 (Framework)

DATE: December 2, 2011

Attached is the recently completed "Framework: Summary of Future Operating Issues and Related Resolution – FY-2012 Through FY-2015" (Framework) dated November 28, 2011. Like the Framework reports produced in prior years, the report identifies projected operating shortfalls, discusses business issues facing the County and proposes means to resolve those issues.

In prior years, significant economic challenges caused by the national, state and regional economic recession, events largely out of the control of Oakland County government, have required the allocation of significant, remedial "budget tasks" to insure fiscal stability. Oakland County's public officials have met the challenge presented by these adverse conditions and, acting together as partners, Oakland County has weathered the fiscal storm. The continuing collaboration between the county-wide elected officials, the Board of Commissioners and our dedicated employees in sharing the economic burden for the betterment of the County is a qualitative asset of immense value in these times.

I am pleased to report that the FY 2012- FY2015 Framework analysis indicates that, as of today, with certain reservations, it will not be necessary to assign additional budget tasks to our operating departments for the period FY-2012 through FY-2015.

This outcome will remain possible only if the elected officials and operating departments honor and implement the budgetary tasks previously committed to for the FY 2012, FY 2013 and FY 2014 time frames. Should any operating department step away from its committed obligation, the razor-thin equity in excess of targets projected for September 30, 2015 of just \$3.1 million

would disappear overnight. In such case, other operating departments would have to shoulder the burden of covering for the department that refused to honor its prior commitments and new budget tasks would have to be assigned.

I am confident that this will not happen and that we all will continue to work cooperatively to insure Oakland County remains the preferred place to live, work and recreate.

Of course our challenge is not over. Absent continued efforts to refine, restructure and reorganize service delivery, a structural operating deficit will exist for FY-2016. But given our proven track record as a team of committed leaders and our focus on long-range planning coupled with early, proactive remedial action, I am confident that we have the time and the will to responsibly address these future budget issues so they never reach a crisis state.

I look forward to your continued leadership and cooperation in the future.