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## News Release

October 11, 2011

### **Ficano ends longstanding benefits for department heads**

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano has ordered an end to extended health and life insurance benefits for appointed department heads and deputy department heads, a benefit provided since Wayne County Commission resolutions were enacted in 1993 and 1994.

Employees hired after Oct. 1, 2011 and covered by the county's Executive Benefit Plan will no longer be eligible for the extended benefits, it was announced Tuesday. Language was added to the plan to reflect the change. The change is effective immediately.

In 1993 and 1994, the Wayne County Commission approved resolutions providing extended lifetime benefits to department executives, county commissioners and other commission employees after eight years of County service. The benefits took effect after employees left County employment.

"This is another way to help the county with its financial challenges," said Chief Financial Officer Carla Sledge. She noted it is part of a redesign of the county's health care package to reduce costs.

On Tuesday, the commission's Committee on Appointee Compensation recommended that the extended benefits also be discontinued for commissioners and commission employees. Anyone hired or elected after Oct. 1, 2011 would not be eligible for benefits.

Commission chair Gary Woronchak introduced the resolution. "The county executive and I agree it's time to end this benefit to be more reflective of the economic realities facing the county today and going forward," Woronchak said.

The recommendation requires approval of the full Commission board, which is scheduled to review the matter later this month.

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