



# RAYMOND J. WOJTOWICZ

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## **Wayne County Treasurer partners with City of Detroit to fight blight**

In an unprecedented cooperative alliance, Wayne County Treasurer Raymond J. Wojtowicz has formally partnered with the City of Detroit to address a longstanding concern about vacant lots that have been lost to property tax foreclosure. This cooperative venture essentially joins Detroit together with the Wayne County Treasurer's Office in an effort to improve neighborhood livability by actively employing blight prevention through regular grass cuttings and removal of solid waste.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), recently approved by Detroit City Council, will allow the County to give the City's General Services Department direct responsibility for properly maintaining all such abandoned, foreclosed parcels currently in the Treasurer's inventory. The cost for these services, which will extend through December 31, 2008, will be paid by the Wayne County Treasurer to the City of Detroit and will not exceed \$650,000. The contract will be renewable on an annual basis.

As a result of this MOU, the City will provide mowing and solid waste removal services. The additional \$650,000 in revenue will allow the City of Detroit to provide these services to all its properties – including those owned by Wayne County - at an increased rate of four times per calendar year instead of the prior rate of only three times per year. This is truly a win-win for both the City of Detroit and Wayne County.

"I am extremely pleased with this joint venture and its ability to uplift these neighborhoods. This agreement with the City reflects our shared determination to support our neighborhoods and the desire of my office to work with local communities," said Wojtowicz. "This is not so much about improving the condition of abandoned properties as it is about improving neighborhoods. It is the people who are my primary concern."