Dear Constituent,

It has been a busy 2015, and everything points to Wayne County being in much better shape financially than when the year began.

The Wayne County Commission has been working with the new administration to right the county’s ship. The Commission recently approved a $1.56 billion balanced budget for the 2015-16 fiscal year, which started Oct. 1, and the budget, combined with other factors – including 10 union contracts approved by the Commission and money received from the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund – have helped erase the county’s accumulated and structural (annual) deficits. The county is on its way to finally being in the black again.

Another positive in the improved finances is the reorganization plan unanimously approved by the Commission. The key element was the creation of the Department of Health, Veterans and Community Wellness, which is a merger of several departments and divisions. As chair of the Commission’s Committee on Health and Human Services, I have been closely monitoring the department’s creation and the improved services it will bring to Wayne County residents. I’m also proud to represent the Commission as vice-chair of the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority and 2nd vice-chair of Authority Health, formerly the Detroit Wayne County Health Authority.

In addition, I’ve been busy as a member of the Commission’s Committees on Audit, Economic Development and Public Services. In particular, the Committee on Audit has been working diligently with the county’s Office of Legislative Auditor General to identify ways to better use taxpayer money.

Much was accomplished by the Wayne County Commission in 2015. I’m looking forward to great productivity in 2016.

I want to wish everyone a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year!

Wayne County Roads is in the process of giving Chandler Park Drive a facelift. Work started about a month ago and will continue right up to the end of the construction season.

Work was held up as Congress did not get around to passing a roads funding bill until August this year. The project is doing a total rebuild of the road from St. John Hospital up to Canyon at Balduck Park. From Canyon to Cadieux, it will receive a resurfacing. Anything not finished this year will be completed when construction season begins next spring.

If you would like a 2016 calendar, please know that they will be available at the Harper Woods Library, Grosse Pointe Library (Ewald) in GPP and the Monteith Library in Detroit or you may contact my office at 313-224-0920.

CHAT WITH COMMISSIONER KILLEEN

Community Organizations: Meeting Dates & Times

Yorkshire Woods: 2nd Thursday of the month@ 7:00 p.m. – Metropolitan Community Tabernacle
Regent Park: 2nd Thursday of the month @ 7:30 p.m. – Cross of Glory Lutheran Church
East English Village: 2nd Wednesday of the month @ 7:00 p.m. – St. Clare of Montefalco
Morningside: 1st Saturday of the month @ 12:00 noon – Bethany Lutheran Church
Creekside: 4th Tuesday of the month @ 6:30 p.m. – Chalmers & Jefferson Ave.
Cornerstone Village Meetings (CSV): 3rd Saturday of the month @ 10:00 a.m. - Salem Memorial Lutheran
5th Precinct Police: 1st Wednesday of the month @ 7:00 p.m. – Samaritan Center, 5555 Conner

Call Commissioner Tim Killeen’s office for additional information at (313) 224-0920.
I am the vice president of the Moross Greenway Project and I am happy to report that we held a groundbreaking ceremony Oct. 7. This project has been in the making for at least six years and plans to clean up and landscape the seven islands along Moross on Detroit’s eastside. This gateway to Detroit has been neglected for some time and with the planting of shrubs and perennials along with installation of irrigation, it will become a beautiful greenway.

According to information provided from SEMCOG, approximately 19,000 vehicles travel Moross from I-94 to Mack daily. This greenway will afford them as well the neighbors living in the area a pleasant view as they go about their daily travels.

In the late 1990s, there was great concern that Receiving Hospital was going to go broke and close its doors. This was the hospital-of-last-resort for our indigent population. Gov. Granholm convened a task force and out of it came the creation of the Detroit Wayne County Health Authority in 2006. I have been the Wayne County Commission representative on the Health Authority Board since 2009, where I serve as 2nd Vice Chair, Chair of the Finance Committee and Chair of the Community Advisory Council. I also sit as a member of the Population Health Council. Here in a nutshell is what we do:

The Detroit Wayne County Health Authority, now called Authority Health, strengthens the health network for underserved populations by promoting health insurance enrollment and navigation, primary care service expansion and health workforce development. Its focus is on enhancing population health through linking existing health resources – Detroit, Wayne County and Federal – and filling gaps with programs and services.

We run a number of programs that range from
- Addressing the shortage of primary care physicians in Detroit and Wayne County to
- Providing a nurse to a first-time indigent Mom from conception to year 2 to
- Enrolling folks into Medicaid insurance under the expansion that occurred as a result of the Affordable Care Act

I am particularly proud of the last bullet point as I helped to lead an effort that brought the major hospital systems together to have a coordinated effort to get an insurance card into uninsured folks’ hands. In Wayne County, we tripled what the predictions were for how many would be enrolled in the first year.

Getting insurance is just the first step in dealing with population health issues that have such a detrimental effect on too many of our fellow citizens. Please link to http://www.authorityhealth.org/ to get a complete picture of what the Authority is up to.

Moross Greenway Project holds groundbreaking ceremony

I am the vice president of the Moross Greenway Project and I am happy to report that we held a groundbreaking ceremony Oct. 7.

This project has been in the making for at least six years and plans to clean up and landscape the seven islands along Moross on Detroit’s eastside.

This gateway to Detroit has been neglected for some time and with the planting of shrubs and perennials along with installation of irrigation, it will become a beautiful greenway.

According to information provided from SEMCOG, approximately 19,000 vehicles travel Moross from I-94 to Mack daily. This greenway will afford them as well the neighbors living in the area a pleasant view as they go about their daily travels.