



News from the Administrator

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“Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction.”

~John F. Kennedy

Administrator’s Message

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Hello Everyone—

As you can probably tell from the photo above, I’m ready for some nice weather and the chance to visit some of Washtenaw County’s best golf courses—do you agree?

Things are going very well in Administration, I’m working with my staff and the Board of Commissioners to begin ticking off those items I outlined when I interviewed to become your Administrator. While I struggle with maintaining patience, I have to remind myself that all good things are worth waiting for. We’re finalizing several things, and I’m looking forward to reporting the deliverables very soon.

How are things going in your offices and departments? I feel like I’m on the go every day, with meetings and, well, meetings! I do my best to say hello when I’m out and about, and I hope I’ve had a chance to see many of you in my travels. If not, please don’t hesitate to contact me, I’d appreciate hearing your thoughts on how you think things are going. Are we providing the best possible services for our citizens? How about you, the talent in this great organization—are you feeling supported and appreciated? What can

your leadership and administration do to help you to excel in your role? Again, please drop me a line and let me know — we’re all in this together!

Speaking of together, I was fortunate to be able to attend the Annual NACO (National Association of Counties) Legislative Conference late last month. This heavily attended event was in Washington D.C. and provided an incredible array of educational/informational sessions that are germane to County operations. I had the opportunity to learn about environmental issues, public health challenges, how to be even more collaborative, maintaining a healthy workforce and so much more. I spoke to other county administrators and heard success stories about how they best serve their citizens. Most importantly, we were provided insight on the direction our new federal administration may be taking—as it pertains to county government; and I must say, I left with a lot of my concerns put to rest— I think we’re going to be okay. So, overall, while I feel like Washtenaw County leads the charge in a number of initiatives, this conference proved that we can do so much more. I’ll be reporting out to the Board of

Commissioners in the coming days and weeks—so please stay tuned!

Finally, please remember our Group of 180 meeting is this month. I’m looking forward to joining you on Tuesday, March 28 at the Learning Resource Center. The topic of this important meeting is Washtenaw County’s role to ensure Equity in our Community. So, your participation is important. Additionally, I’ll be sharing some great news about a new opportunity that will be offered to all of our employees later this year. I hope you make attending this important meeting a priority!

We’ve got a lot going on here in Washtenaw County, and I’m excited for each milestone we reach, because every success story makes us that much better at doing what we do, confirms that pride in our work equates to excellence in the service we provide our citizens (and one another). Keep up the great work everyone, I’m looking forward to seeing you on March 28. In the meantime, I welcome your thoughts and ideas about the direction of Washtenaw County Government.

~ Greg

United Way Update



Reminder: Our annual food drive begins in March!

Volunteer Center goes Mobile!



United Way of Washtenaw County's online Volunteer Center can help match your interests with local agencies in need, plus, it has just been upgraded to be mobile-friendly, check it out:
www.VolunteerWashtenaw.org



2017 UNITED WAY UPDATE



The 2017 Food Drive is underway. This event is very important to our community because it helps to restock the shelves of our local food pantry, Food Gatherers. The food drive will run through March 28th. Food Gatherers has placed bins at most County locations for your convenience. We will also be collecting donations at our Group of 180 meeting on March 28th. Some suggestions of items in high demand are: canned food items, baby food or formula, diapers, Ensure, dry goods, pasta noodles, powdered milk, peanut butter, toothpaste/toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, and disposable razors.

On deck for the Spring: Your committee is hard at work planning a new Grand Slam for the United Way fundraising event. They are very excited for this new opportunity and can't wait to share it with you. More details will follow as we finalize them. I hope everyone will consider participating!



2017 United Way Campaign Calendar: Overall Goal \$71,250

2017 Events:			
EVENT	DATE	GOAL	OUTCOME
Food Drive	Feb 27-March 28	\$4,000	\$
Day of Action	June	20 Volunteers	
Stuff the Bus	August	\$17,500	\$
Grand Slam for UW	May	\$250	\$
Annual Campaign	September—November	\$41,000	\$
Annual Online Auction	September—November	\$4,000	\$
Washtenaw Cares	November—December	\$4,500	\$

Click [HERE](#) to Like Your United Way Committee on Facebook!

Community Town Hall UPDATE



My team and I continue to work with our elected officials to find a date/time to reschedule our much anticipated Community Town Hall.

While we are making progress, we still have not settled on a mutually agreeable date to hold this important meeting.

I thank you for your patience, as soon as scheduling information is available, I will pass it along to you.

Board of Commissioners Holds Retreat

On Thursday, March 2nd, the Board of Commissioners held their annual Retreat. This meeting serves as an opportunity for our Commissioners to share their thoughts and ideas surrounding the direction of Washtenaw County —

This year, Chair LaBarre asked that the Board review my Calendar of Deliverables, as presented to them in January, so that's where the meeting began. Over the course of 3 hours, our Board discussed many issues facing the county — from economic development, police & human services, environmental concerns, ethics, equity and more.

My staff is currently working with BOC Leadership to revise the original Calendar of Deliverables so it accurately reflects the outcome of this meeting and the direction the BOC wishes to lead Washtenaw County. Once we've finalized that document, I'll be sure to provide it via eCentral and eWashtenaw.

Overall, it was a great meeting, filled with a sense of collaboration and determination! We all left knowing we have a lot of work to do, but excited to get started, too.

I encourage you to watch the replay of the meeting. You may find it here.



Getting to Know: Mason Freeman



"You have to give respect in order to earn respect."

~Mason Freeman

This month, you'll meet our 2016 Excellence in County Government Recipient, Mason Freeman—and what a great guy he is! Quick with a smile and always willing to do whatever it takes to help his coworkers, Mason embodies excellence! Please read on:

Would you mind sharing a little about yourself:

Sure, I'll be 30 this year and while the thought of it does not excite me, I do realize that its life and all things must go on! Being 29 has been great, having the opportunity to put my uniform on every day and seeing the many faces throughout the county makes me feel good about myself and my abilities. I always had hopes and dreams of being a movie editor or producer, so much so that I went to California to further my education in media production. I have a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from American InterContinental University, where I majored in Media Production and minored in IT Technology. On my days off, I enjoy composing music and find adventure in exploring the culinary arts scene (I LOVE FOOD). I love to travel around the globe and enjoy learning about history through the artifacts found in museums; just the thought of being in the footsteps of those who laid the foundation for all of us is incredibly enlightening to me.

How long have you been with Washtenaw County – why did you choose us for your career?

I've been with Washtenaw County for almost 8 years, but it feels more like 2 – although in the beginning, I found the thought of working here to be nerve wracking because it was an entirely different field and I didn't know what to expect. That uneasy feeling lasted for about 4 hours, until I realized what a great job I had. I have

been incredibly fortunate to make some lifelong friendships, I've learned from the staff we've lost and all of the experiences along the way have served as building blocks to help me sharpen my work skills.

Have you always worked for Facilities, or did you have other 'careers' within Washtenaw County?

I have always worked in our Facilities department, but started as an intern for the Support Services staff.

What does your job entail?

My job entails doing all things related to the mail! Sorting, stamping, inter-office, etc. Our office also recycles batteries, snow removal, felony mail pick-up and more. I also value relationship building with my customers – I especially enjoy talking to the many sports fans throughout my day, engaging in many Michigan – vs – Michigan State debates throughout the year.

You are highly regarded by your co-workers and those you serve, what would you say is the secret of your success?

My secret for success is to come in and leave my home and other life issues outside work. When you give someone your attention, actually remember things people say, communicate with those you work for, help those you can.... It helps to facilitate an easy outcome, especially when you are genuine in your efforts. You have to give respect in order to earn respect.

As with any job, I'm sure there are challenges and rewards. What would you say is the most difficult and the most satisfying about what you do?

The most difficult aspect of my job

is to get to work really early on a snowy day, but the most satisfying thing is to know I've gotten everyone's mail out and that they'll have one less thing to worry about (like last minute mailings or their bills being paid!).

What's your favorite part of your job?

I have a job I actually like doing.

If you could share just one bit of advice to help others be successful in their role within Washtenaw County, what would that be?

My advice for those who want to further their career in Washtenaw County is to do the job the right way, don't be afraid to ask for help and to respect those around you. Most importantly, please remember that even if you are off work or outside of work, you still represent Washtenaw County.

So there you have it — nothing is impossible when you love what you do! Thank you, Mason, for choosing to work with us!

Greg

