



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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TO: Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Robert E. Guenzel

RE: Collaboration Agreement with Kent County

DATE: December 5, 2001

In January 2001, Washtenaw County created an internal E-Government Task Force to begin utilizing E-Government as a business tool to enhance customer service. As the Task Force researched E-Government around the country, they learned that Kent County partnered with National Information Consortium (NIC) to assist in the implementation of its E-government initiative in March 2001. Representatives of the Washtenaw County E-Government Task Force met on a number of occasions with Kent County's Administration and Information Technology Departments to discuss collaboration between Washtenaw and Kent Counties on E-Government issues.

As a result of these meetings, representatives from Washtenaw and Kent agreed to develop a Joint Advisory Committee to review the E-Government initiatives in their respective Counties and to explore the possibility of adding additional Counties to collaborate on E-Government. To that extent, Washtenaw and Kent County have agreed to collaborate on E-Government issues, including, but not limited to, the sharing of technology infrastructure, the joint development of applications, the development of policies and standards, investigation and the submittal of potential funding opportunities. Additionally, the parties agree to collaborate on other E-Government issues as they arise.

This collaborative effort with Kent County aligns with Guiding Principle # 7, *"Provide leadership on intragovernmental, intergovernmental and intersectoral cooperation and collaboration aimed at improving services to County citizens"*. I believe this platform will allow Washtenaw County to continue to provide the statewide leadership in technology and through our partnership with Kent County set an example for other County governments.