

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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TO: Barbara Levin Bergman, Chair

Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Robert E. Guenzel

County Administrator

Roger Fraser

City Administrator

DATE: July 2, 2008

SUBJECT: City / County Collaboration Initiative

BACKGROUND:

Key leaders from the City of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County met in the Fall of 2007 to discuss opportunities to expand government-to-government collaboration and enhance regionalism. They designed and implemented a process to identify and prioritize collaborative projects which had the potential to centralize services to residents, reduce costs, enhance customer service, and/or increase the efficiency and effectiveness of internal operations. This process was implemented between November 2007 and March 2008.

DISCUSSION:

Key milestones of the project included:

- A. **Department Discussions:** Department Heads and Managers of twelve departments (i.e., Budget/Strategic Planning, Building & Planning, Clerk's Office, Energy, Facilities, Field Operations, Finance, Fire/Police Dispatch/Animal Control/Permits, IT, PR/Communication/CTN, Storm Water/Drains, Assessor's Office) met to identify and prioritize potential collaborative initiatives/projects within each department. The departments identified 83 potential projects.
- B. Leadership Team Evaluation: The 83 collaborative projects were evaluated by the City/County leadership team to determine which projects had the greatest potential to reduce costs, enhance customer service, and/or increase efficiency and effectiveness. The team prioritized projects based upon organizational needs, budgets, and schedules.
- C. *Identification of Highest Priority Projects:* The City/County leadership team determined that the following three projects should be implemented in 2008 since these projects will create a strong infrastructure and build the foundation to support future

collaborative projects, increasing operational efficiency and effectiveness:

- A long-range IT strategic plan to create shared/common technology and applications to support City/County operations.
- o A shared IT Data Center.
- o A shared financial management system.

Project overviews and milestones for each of these three projects are attached.