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PRESS ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NORTH BRANCH OF ECORSE CREEK FLOOD MITIGATION PLANNING EFFORT
UNDERWAY**

Responding to community needs caused by nearly a decade of increasing storm damage, County Executive Robert Ficano and local community leaders are working on a new comprehensive flood mitigation planning effort. The project began with a policy meeting of the group represented by the mayors of nine communities and Wayne County. The mayors of Allen Park, Dearborn Heights, Ecorse, Inkster, Lincoln Park, Melvindale, Taylor, Romulus, and Westland gathered with Wayne County Department of Environment personnel and engineers to discuss issues and establish a process for the project. In addition a subsequent meeting was held of the technical committee, comprised of the local community DPW directors and city engineers.

The Project is the result of the efforts of Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano to be proactive in response to concerns of communities and citizens in the wake of the problems caused by the severe storm occurring in May of 2004. Director of the Department of Environment and Drain Commissioner, Kurt Heise is charged to develop options to mitigate impacts of future storm events. The participating communities have suffered from increasingly severe storms and heavy rainfalls for more than a decade.

As a result of a petition presented in August 2004 under the State of Michigan Drain Code by the City of Dearborn Heights, a Board of Determination hearing was called in December of 2004. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued and an engineering firm, The Spicer Group, was selected as part of a competitive process to begin an engineering study.

To date, aerial photography of the district has been completed as well as a draft site condition survey. Recommendations for mitigation and prevention strategies are being examined and developed. Possible ideas include construction of storm water basins, deepening and widening of the creek itself as well as development of additional riparian corridor green spaces, and wetlands. The study is expected to be completed in mid 2006.

When the study is complete, the Drain Commissioner, in consultation with the leadership of the local communities, will review the study recommendations and will proceed to determine the best course of action to mitigate flooding as early as 2007.

The next meetings of the policy and technical committees are scheduled for the fall. To follow the project and its efforts, check the North Branch of the Ecorse Creek website at www.nbecorsecreek.com or the Wayne County site at www.waynecounty.com/doe/ sites or contact Vanessa Denha-Garmo at 313 –213-5274.