

CITY OF DETROIT

News Release

Water and Sewerage Department

Dave Bing, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Detroit Water and Sewerage Department introduces new Board of Water Commissioners

The newly reconstituted Board of Water Commissioners (BOWC) for the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) is ready to go to work. Detroit Mayor Dave Bing's last two appointments, Bradley Kenoyer of Ford Motor Co. and Linda Forte of Comerica Bank, will join fellow Detroit representatives Mary Blackmon and Jim Thrower, as well as new representatives from suburban communities: Fred Barnes (Macomb County), James Fausone (Wayne County), and J. Bryan Williams (Oakland County).

"I am pleased with the makeup of this new DWSD board," said Mayor Bing. "All of the commissioners bring the expertise and commitment we need to deliver the highest level of customer service."

Blackmon was first elected president of the BOWC in January 2003. She is a retiree of Ameritech and a current member of the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency Board of Education, where she has served since 1982. Blackmon also served for 10 years as a member of the Detroit Board of Education. She has served on several committees for the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), where she is a vice president. A graduate of Leadership Detroit, Blackmon remains active in a number of civic and community organizations.

Forte, a senior vice president at Comerica Inc., brings more than 30 years of business, finance, and commercial banking expertise to the board. A member of Comerica's senior leadership team, she is responsible for defining and driving business strategies. Forte earned her bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University and received her master's of business administration degree in finance and accounting from the University of Michigan. She serves as a director of the Economic Development Corporation of the City of Detroit and serves on many other agency and organization boards as well.

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Kenoyer brings a decade of cross-functional experience in delivering customer-driven results to technical, cost and service quality issues for Ford Motor. An honoree of the Ford/Massachusetts Institute of Technology/University of Detroit Mercy program for engineering excellence, Kenoyer holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and earned a master's degree in product development from the University of Detroit Mercy. He has served on the Board of Directors of Preservation Wayne and has volunteered at the Ruth Ellis Center.

Thrower is president and CEO of Jamjomar Inc. and the owner of seven McDonald's restaurants in Detroit and the surrounding metropolitan area. Following a career in professional football playing as a defensive back for the Detroit Lions and the Philadelphia Eagles, Thrower served as loan executive and executive assistant to the board chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), regional manager of public issues and planning at Michigan Consolidated Gas, and director of community affairs at Stroh's Brewery. He holds a bachelor's degree in English and physical education from East Texas State University. Thrower is affiliated with several corporate and community groups, such as the Ronald McDonald Children's Charities.

Barnes is a registered professional engineer from Sterling Heights. He owns and operates Fred W. Barnes Associates Inc., a consulting engineering firm. Before starting his own company, he was a senior project engineer with Atwell-Hicks Inc., where he managed engineering projects and supervised engineers, planners, and designers. Barnes also worked for the Macomb County Public Works Department for more than 20 years; the design, operation, and maintenance of more than 700 county drains, as well as the review of residential and commercial developments. He holds a bachelor's degree from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Fausone is the city attorney for the City of Westland. A resident of Canton Township, he is a partner in Fausone Bohn LLP, where he practices business law, municipal law, veterans disability law, and environmental law. He was also president of K&D Industrial Services, an environmental remediation, industrial service, and waste transportation company, and served as a partner at the Dykema Gossett law firm. He holds dual bachelor's degrees in environmental engineering and oceanography from the University of Michigan and earned his law degree from Gonzaga University. He was elected a Schoolcraft College trustee and is the director of the University of Michigan College of Engineering – Civil and Environmental Engineering board, among other affiliations.

Williams is an attorney with the Dickinson Wright law firm. Williams, of Bloomfield Hills, practices in the areas of corporate and municipal law. He has served as counsel to the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner in municipal bond financings, and has counseled Oakland County in connection with privatization of its medical care facility. Williams has a wealth of experience in providing counsel to both privately- and publicly-held companies. He earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Notre Dame and received his juris doctor degree from the University of Michigan. He is a member of the City of Birmingham Planning Board, and a past member of the Board of Directors of the Economic Club of Detroit. He is also a past vice chairman of the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce.

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