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## *For Immediate Release*

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### **Respected Planning and Economic Development director retires; Assistant executive elevated to new post**

Stephen Cassin, the executive director of the Macomb County Planning and Economic Development Department, is retiring after 14 years of service to Macomb County. Cassin, who was appointed to the position in 2002, is credited with modernizing the county's planning and economic development services to allow them to better serve both public and private sector partners.

Cassin began his professional career in planning more than 40 years ago working for the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) and Clinton Township prior to joining Macomb County.

"I have had a long career, and I am incredibly proud of the current state of the county's planning and economic development services," said Cassin.

Macomb County Executive Mark A. Hackel celebrated Cassin's tenure.

"Steve has been a respected and valued director for many years," Executive Hackel said. "Those who worked with Steve appreciated his professionalism, integrity and thoughtfulness. Steve is a good man and he will be greatly missed."

With Cassin's departure, Executive Hackel has appointed Assistant County Executive John Paul Rea to the executive director post.

"John Paul has excelled in his time with the Executive's Office," said Executive Hackel. "However, with Steve retiring, we recognized we had a perfect opportunity to elevate John Paul into a leadership role in a field he is both knowledgeable and passionate about."

Rea comes on board as the county's Planning and Economic Development executive director after serving as an assistant county executive, managing strategic communications and programming for Macomb

County. Prior to working as assistant county executive, Rea acted as senior planner for the county's Planning and Economic Development Department.

"I am thrilled to be given the opportunity to serve Macomb County as the leader of the county's Planning and Economic Development Department," Rea said. "With the support of the Office of the County Executive, and the dedicated professionals who work in planning, I believe we can continue to advance the department."

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