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Press Release

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Executive Ficano appoints new members to airport board, stadium authority

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano has appointed two community leaders to serve on the Wayne County Airport Authority and the Detroit/Wayne County Stadium Authority.

Mike Jackson, head of the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters, was selected for a seat on the Wayne County Airport Authority. James Settles Jr., a United Auto Workers vice president, will serve on the Detroit/Wayne County Stadium Authority.

Jackson's appointment is effective immediately; Settles' appointment requires approval by the Wayne County Commission.

"Mike Jackson has a track record of making a difference," said Ficano. "In today's global economy, our airports help drive economic development, especially with the prospects of an Aerotropolis creating thousands of new jobs.

"Mr. Jackson's leadership skills will serve the residents of the region well as we continue to utilize our world-class airports."

The seven-member Airport Authority operates Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport and Willow Run Airport. Jackson was appointed to a six-year term.

"The Wayne County Airport Authority has tremendous responsibilities," Gov. Rick Snyder said. "Its members must have commitment, drive and expertise to oversee the region's vital transportation hubs. Mike Jackson fits the bill perfectly. His extensive background coupled with his dedication to Southeast Michigan and our entire state makes him an ideal addition to the authority."

A longtime labor leader, Mike Jackson represents more than 20,000 carpenters and millwrights in Michigan. He was elected to the position of executive secretary-treasurer – the union’s highest state office -- in 2009.

Jackson, a Dearborn resident, has been an active member of the community. Last year, the Detroit City Council presented Jackson with a Spirit of Detroit Award for his achievements and services to the City of Detroit.

Jackson and his wife, Aleta, have four children and eight grandchildren.

Said Patrick Devlin, CEO of the Michigan Building Trades Council: “Mike is a great selection for the Airport Authority. He brings a wealth of knowledge to the position and an ability to produce results that will benefit the region.”

The Airport Authority is an independent agency established in 2002 by the State Legislature. Under state law, the Wayne County executive appoints four board members; the governor appoints two, and the Wayne County Commission appoints one.

With more than 30 million passengers each year, Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County airport is one of the busiest airports in the U.S.

Jackson replaces Settles on the airport board. Executive Ficano praised Settles for his service at the airport and said Settles’ commitment to the residents of metro Detroit will be an asset to the six-member stadium board.

“Jimmy Settles was a real leader on the Airport Authority,” Ficano said. “If there is any resolve to construct a new arena for the Red Wings in Detroit, Jimmy Settles will be a tremendous asset in the process.”

Settles, a former director of UAW Region 1A, has been a UAW vice president since 2006. He began his career as a trade union activist in 1968, when he joined UAW Local 600 upon starting work at Ford Motor Co.’s Dearborn Iron Foundry and Michigan Casting Center.

A Detroit native, Settles is active in a wide range of community and civic organizations.

The purpose of the Stadium Authority is to construct, maintain and operate stadiums and related structures.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement Regarding the Appointment of Mike Jackson to the Wayne County Airport Authority Board

DETROIT (May 13, 2011)—In response to today's announcement by **Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano** that he has appointed **Mike Jackson** to serve on the **Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA)** Board, WCAA Board Chairperson Renée Axt and Interim CEO Genelle Allen issued the following statements:

"Mike Jackson is a proven steward of our community and his experience, leadership and passion for public service all make him a fantastic addition to the Airport Authority Board," said **WCAA Board Chair Renée Axt**. "We also owe a debt of gratitude to Jimmy Settles, who has been a driving force behind the Airport Authority's success and will no doubt be a tremendous asset to the Stadium Authority team."

"The strength of both Detroit Metro and Willow Run airports as economic engines stems from the foresight of our Board's leadership," said **WCAA Interim CEO Genelle Allen**. "I look forward to working with Mr. Jackson in his new role as we continue to cultivate these two, prized air transportation assets."

Wayne County's press release announcing Mike Jackson's appointment is available at <http://www.co.wayne.mi.us>.