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## ***Press Release***

*For Immediate Release*

September 15, 2010

### **Wayne County's \$40M Suit Vs. The Farbman Co. Heads To Arbitration** *County Executive Unhappy That Taxpayers Won't Get To Decide Important Case*

**Wayne County, MI** – Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano's lawsuit against the County's former landlord, The Farbman Company ("Farbman"), won't be decided by taxpayers, even though it involves \$40 million in taxpayer dollars. The suit, which alleges various forms of fraud, and failure to pay on a promissory note, will instead move to arbitration, based on a clause in the lease at issue.

Ficano filed the lawsuit in Wayne County Circuit Court in hopes that Farbman would agree to let the taxpayers decide this issue. By exercising the arbitration clause, the defendant has taken it out of the hands of the public.

"It's very unfortunate that Wayne County taxpayers will not get the opportunity to hear all the evidence and make a decision based on the facts," Ficano said. "But the citizens of Wayne County can rest assured that we will do everything in our power to recoup the \$40 million they are owed by the Farbmans."

Ficano filed suit on June 30 against Farbman, claiming the defendant gouged taxpayers by overcharging, employing ghost employees, and generally abusing taxpayer dollars thanks in part to an oppressive, one-sided lease the Administration inherited.

Acting in the best interest of the taxpayers, and based on documentation uncovered when assessing the County's decision regarding the current lease, Ficano did not renew the lease at the Old Wayne County Building. The County paid, on average, \$5.3 million annually to occupy the Old Wayne County Building. The County's purchase of the historic Guardian building saves taxpayers \$2.8 million annually.

Ficano said Farbman had ample opportunity to address these issues and correct their previous actions, but failed to do so.

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