

NEWS RELEASE

Republican Caucus: Democrats refuse to take action to restore the pride and livelihood of Oakland County workers

April 30, 2020, OAKLAND COUNTY, MI. – During the April 29th Board of Commissioners meeting, Commissioner **Michael J. Gingell** (R-Lake Orion) introduced a resolution on behalf of the Republican Caucus requesting that the Board urge Governor Gretchen Whitmer to more aggressively open the state's economy so that Michigan and Oakland County workers can begin to restore their livelihoods in a safe and responsible manner. The resolution specifically cited the need for Governor Whitmer to focus on industry sectors that will impact auto workers, carpenters, steel workers, plumbers, millwrights, skilled trade workers and others.

The Board's Democrat majority voted to decline taking up and acting on the item. Through their lack of action, the Democrat majority implied that the matter was not urgent.

During the meeting, Deputy County Executive for Economic Development Sean Carlson presented materials illustrating the importance of Oakland County's economy to the state of Michigan. He also indicated that a large number of small businesses reside in Oakland County, and warned commissioners of the on-going impact COVID-19 is expected to have on unemployment and overall economic recovery.

"Based on the current economic situation and the materials presented to the Board by Deputy County Executive Carlson, I do not understand why the Democrat majority would vote against immediately taking up the resolution," Gingell said. "We all agree, the economy must be re-opened in a safe and responsible manner, but continuing to prevent people from returning to work and earning a living is unacceptable. The Democrat majority's failure to act demonstrates a disconnect to the business community and a lack of judgement relative to the catastrophic long-term impact that failing to act will have on Oakland County, our families and economic viability."

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