

News

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Macomb County supports Big 3 workers, companies with vehicle buys

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. – The Macomb County Board of Commissioners plans to move ahead planned vehicle purchases as a show of support for American autoworkers and the companies that employ them, said board Chairman Paul Gielegem.

“The domestic auto industry is the backbone of Macomb County’s economy,” said Gielegem, D-Clinton Township. “Workers in the General Motors, Chrysler, Ford and supplier plants here in Macomb deserve our support as they face an uncertain economy.”

The county is buying four Chevrolet police cruisers immediately, and later this month the County Board will be asked to approve the purchase of four Dodge police cruisers. Later this year, the board will be asked to buy four Ford police cruisers. In recent years, the county purchased Ford Crown Victoria police units almost exclusively.

The board also this month will consider the purchase of two passenger vans, and hopes to buy those from Macomb County dealerships out of existing inventory. Makes and models of the vans will be determined by price and availability, but they will be purchased from dealerships representing GM, Ford or Chrysler.

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Because of the bidding process and specifications for police vehicles, a relatively small number of dealerships in the region regularly participate in that sales market.

“We believe in the future of our domestic auto industry and we believe in our friends and neighbors whose livelihoods depend on the car companies,” said County Commissioner Don Brown, R-Washington Township. “It’s a small, symbolic gesture, but now is the time to support the Detroit-area automakers.”

In March, the Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a resolution in support of Chrysler LLC’s reorganization plan submitted to the Obama Administration, and secured letters and resolutions of support from local communities and groups throughout the county.

“We cannot forget the contributions made by GM, Ford and Chrysler to Macomb County and our local communities, the nation’s economy and the freedom we all enjoy,” Gielegem said. “At one time, the domestic auto industry was responsible for one of every seven jobs in the U.S. The Big 3 dramatically expanded the middle class, improved everyone’s quality of life, created the largest automobile market in the world and gave us one of our most important freedoms – the freedom of mobility.”

During World War II, GM, Ford and Chrysler retooled their factories and built tanks, armaments and aircraft that fueled the Allied victory. President Franklin Roosevelt called Detroit the Arsenal of Democracy.

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