



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**COMMISSIONERS LEAD EFFORT TO BRING CLEAN WATER TO NEIGHBORHOODS
THROUGHOUT FRANKLIN COUNTY**

Tomorrow, during the Commissioners' General Session meeting, Franklin County Commissioners will consider a resolution to enter into an agreement with the City of Columbus to bring clean water to the Mon-E-Bak Farms Subdivision and Leonard Park neighborhood and to convene a working group to establish a new policy for provisions of City water service and annexation in 23 Franklin County neighborhoods. The infrastructure related investments necessary to connect these neighborhoods will also create jobs for Franklin County residents.

The Commissioners approval of this resolution will allow for the provision of fresh, safe water for nearly 350 families of the Mon-E-Bak Farms Subdivision and Leonard Park neighborhood while not requiring the homeowners to annex their property into the City of Columbus in order to receive the service.

In addition to the immediate approval to provide water to those two neighborhoods, the City and the County will also create a working group to revise the City's long standing annexation policy to consider providing water to over twenty other Franklin County neighborhoods, including Eureka Park, Harrisburg Pike, Murnan Road, the Village of Galloway and Alkire Road. This working group will consider environmental impact, public health concerns and economic development as it amends the policy. The working group commits to making a policy recommendation by June 30, 2011.

The Franklin County Commissioners are proud to lead the charge on this agreement and remain fully committed to helping bring clean, quality water to these un-served and underserved areas throughout our county.

The agreement will also include an amendment to the County's existing Rickenbacker Service Agreement area which will assign sewer and water service to the City of Columbus – saving Franklin County roughly \$170,000 a year in operational expenses and amends an existing agreement between the City of Columbus and Franklin County to change a county designated service area in an unincorporated area of Franklin Township to become a city designated service area. This strategic change will allow both the City and the County to continue its partnership in creating jobs in the Rickenbacker area.

The changes in this resolution once again highlight the collaborative relationship between the City and County to improve the quality of life for central Ohio residents.