



Delaware County Commissioners

Jeff Benton
Barb Lewis
Gary Merrell

Acting County Administrators
Dawn Huston and Seiji Kille

Clerk to the Commissioners
Jennifer Walraven

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 18, 2016

Contact: Jane Hawes
Communications Manager
740/833-2109 (office) • 740/815-3390 (cell)

Delaware County Commissioners Name New County Administrator

DELAWARE, Ohio — The Delaware County Board of Commissioners have announced the hiring of Ferzan M. Ahmed as Delaware's County Administrator. Ahmed comes to Delaware County from the Ohio Department of Transportation, where he most recently has served as deputy director of ODOT's District 6. He will assume his post with the county April 11.

Said Ahmed, "Through my work at ODOT, I have had the pleasure and privilege to get to know the Commissioners as well as the other elected officials in Delaware County. As a longtime resident of the county, I am thrilled that I will have the opportunity to serve my friends, neighbors and fellow county residents as part of a forward-thinking and dynamic team led by Commissioners Barb Lewis, Jeff Benton and Gary Merrell."

Ahmed, 51, succeeds Tim Hansley as the county's administrator. Hansley retired from his post Jan. 15, 2016, after a public-service career spanning more than 43 years. Delaware County's administrator reports directly to the three-person elected Board of County Commissioners. As County Administrator, Ahmed will be responsible for overseeing and directing the daily, general operations of the county and for implementing the Board's policies. Delaware County, situated just north of Franklin County, continues to be one of Ohio's fastest growing counties with 193,420 residents in 2015, an 11.0 percent increase over the last 15 years. The County employs 1,112 individuals and operates on an annual general-fund budget of \$98 million.

--more--

Delaware County Commissioners, 101 North Sandusky Street, P.O. Box 8006 Delaware, Ohio 43015

(740) 833-2100

(740) 548-7313

FAX: (740) 833-2099

2-2-2

As ODOT's District 6 Deputy Director, Ahmed has overseen an eight-county region encompassing nearly 5,000 miles of roads in Delaware, Fayette, Franklin, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Pickaway and Union counties. A native of Pakistan, Ahmed came to the U.S to earn his undergraduate degree in electrical engineering from Kansas State University. He became a U.S. citizen in 1996. Ahmend, who is a resident of Powell, joined ODOT in 1992 where, among many other projects, he oversaw the development of the I-70/I-71 redesign project. He has directed District 6, the state's largest ODOT region, since 2011.

The Commissioners were unanimous in their decision to hire Ahmed. Said Board president Lewis, "After a rigorous search, we are so pleased that Ferzan Ahmed has joined our leadership team. As a resident of the county for many years, Ferzan appreciates our community's unique blend of residential, rural, commercial and agricultural interests, and our traditional values. More importantly, he embraces our dynamic vision and high expectations for Delaware County's future."

Added Benton, "I am delighted to have Ferzan join the Delaware County team in a key leadership role. He brings a wealth of experience, local knowledge and important relationships to the County Administrator's office."

Said Merrell, "When you start a search for a high-profile position such as county administrator, you start with high expectations and often have to bring expectations down to reality. With the addition of Ferzan Ahmed, I don't believe that is the case. Ferzan brings outstanding leadership skills, professionalism, county knowledge and a passion to serve Delaware County with him as he assumes this new role. All of these traits, and many more were apparent during the hiring process. Delaware County is extremely fortunate with Ferzan's decision to become our next County Administrator. This, coupled with other recent hires, positions our County for the challenges we will face for years to come."

For more information about Delaware County, please visit our website at www.co.delaware.oh.us.

###

Photo attached

Ahmed will be available to meet with members of the media today, Friday, March 18, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Commissioners' building, 101 N. Sandusky St., Delaware.