

# **Oakland County Board of Commissioners News Release**

For Immediate Release:  
July 27, 2010

## **Commissioner Eric Coleman Builds Economic Bridge Between Oakland County and Israel**

Oakland County Commissioner Eric Coleman participated in an American-Israeli mission in Israel as part of the America-Israel Friendship League's (AIFL) Mission of County Elected Officials.

He contributed to discussions on economic development, security and other important issues facing local governments. Oakland County Commissioner Eric Coleman, who was President of the National Association of Counties (NACo), was invited as a representative of the nation's counties along with other members of NACo's Executive Committee.

Each year, the American-Israel Friendship League sends groups of American leaders, scholars and professionals to Israel. Americans meet with Israeli counterpart's professors, journalists, doctors, business executives, civil rights advocates and government officials reflecting Israel's diversity of faiths, ethnicities and political views. The mission was sponsored in full by AIFL.

**"I was delighted and deeply honored to have been invited by the American-Israel Friendship League to participate in the Mission to Israel," said Commissioner Coleman. Adding, "There is so much we can learn as elected officials by interacting with dignitaries abroad. I am particularly interested in how elected officials there work cooperatively with their citizens to enhance economic development."**

Dan Hunter, Manager of Oakland County's Planning & Economic Development Services reaffirms the importance of this mission by stating:

**"Commissioner Coleman's trip to Israel assists Oakland County's global economic development efforts to attract businesses and investment into Oakland County. With over 650 firms already located in Oakland County from 24 different countries, information and contacts developed by Commissioner Coleman are being used to assist our economic development activities."**

AIFL Leadership Missions go far beyond ordinary “tours”. They dramatically convey unique and daily challenges of a small democracy struggling for peace. Past participants have included members of the National Council of Churches. National Association of Attorneys General, state and school board officials, university presidents, Middle East scholars, journalists and media analysts, community and business leaders, artists and filmmakers.

AIFL is a non-sectarian, non-political, not-for-profit organization strengthening ties between people of the U.S. and Israel; bridging distances to reveal the beauty, the humanity, and the modern democratic values that define both nations.

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