



# Board of Commissioners

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 8, 2024

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### **Dr. David J. Keep Sworn in as the Acting Lake County Coroner**

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, March 8, 2024— At the Commissioners meeting on March 7, 2024, Commission President John T. Plecnik swore in David J. Keep as the acting Lake County Coroner.

The Board of Commissioners appointed Dr. David J. Keep as the acting Lake County Coroner to perform the duties thereof until the time when the officer appointed by the Republican Central Committee qualifies and takes the office for the remainder of the Auditor’s current term ending January 5, 2025, or until his successor qualifies and takes office.

“Commissioners, thank you very much. It has been a real privilege and a challenge to serve as deputy coroner for a number of years now. I thank you for the opportunity to serve as acting coroner. Our office is a small group of very dedicated individuals who do the medical legal death investigation for the county. It is very specialized training and some of it is on the job training, but its very important for us to determine cause of death and manner of death. Our mission is to serve the most vulnerable people of Lake County; children, elderly, people who succumb to unexpected sudden deaths, often in violent circumstances. In the areas of public health and criminal justice, we want to do the best job for Lake County,” said acting coroner, Dr. David J. Keep.



*From the left: Commission President John T. Plecnik, Acting Coroner Dr. David J. Keep*

"It has been both a privilege and a challenge to serve as deputy coroner for many years. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to now serve as acting coroner. Our team is small, but incredibly dedicated, working tirelessly to investigate medical-legal deaths in our county. Our mission is to determine the cause and manner of death, especially for our most vulnerable populations - children, the elderly, and those who die unexpectedly or violently. Through specialized training and on-the-job experience, we strive to provide the best service possible for the people of Lake County in the areas of public health and criminal justice. Thank you to the commissioners for the opportunity to lead this important work," said acting coroner Dr. David J. Keep.

"Our County Coroner's early retirement created a vacancy in the office for the remainder of the year. It is crucial that this critical county function is well-led during this time, so the commissioners have decided to appoint our Chief Deputy Coroner David J. Keep as our acting coroner. Dr. Keep has already stepped up to run for the office and he is the right person to lead it in the interim. He is highly qualified, with 24 years as a Lake County resident, 25 years as a staff pathologist for Lake Health and University Hospitals, 9 years as chairman of the Pathology Department, and 15 years as a deputy coroner and pathologist for the Lake County Coroner's Office. Dr. Keep was trained in Forensic Pathology in 2014 at the Cuyahoga County medical examiner's Office. Since 2016, he has been a board-certified forensic pathologist. We are confident in Dr. Keep's abilities and credentials," said Commission President John T. Plecnik.

"Appointing an acting coroner is crucial for upholding the operational efficiency of the office and ensuring that essential duties are completed promptly. We are pleased to assign someone with extensive experience to this role," said Commissioner John R. Hamercheck.

"I echo my fellow colleagues in underscoring the critical need to promptly fill this role with a qualified candidate. Dr. Keep, with his expertise and experience, is an excellent choice to ensure essential responsibilities are executed in a timely fashion," said Commissioner Richard J. Regovich.

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