

Moffitt expected to serve as vice chair Chamber from page A1

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The Oakland County Board of Commissioners GOP Caucus nominated veteran Commissioner David L. Moffitt to its No. 2 spot at its Dec. 3 organizational caucus.

Moffitt, 48, (R-Farmington Hills) will almost certainly be confirmed as vice chairman of the board at the Jan. 10 meeting of the commission, where the GOP holds 17-7 partisan advantage. He received 11 votes while the current commissioner vice chairwoman Fran Amos (R-

Waterford) received 6.

"Other than to stand in for the chair, there's never really been a set of responsibilities assigned to the vice chair," Moffitt said Wednesday. "I hope to bring substance to the role and reinvent it."

He's polling other commissioners to get some ideas, but has already seen some gaps he could fill as vice chair. The first - coordination of communications - is probably the closest to his heart, as Moffitt has long campaigned to get more information out to the public about the commission's work.

"We're printing a full color newsletter for the first time in the county's history," he said. "This is a first step, but I think someone should oversee our communications with constituents."

While the county does have staff members who take responsibility for communications, Moffitt believes having a commissioner take direct oversight could be an added benefit.

"I feel real involvement of a commissioner could enhance commissioners' service to one another and their service to the community," he said.

Moffitt also noted his cooperative and friendly relationship with the commission's new leader.

Board chairman Thomas A. Law (R-West Bloomfield) said, "David and I work well together. His experience and willingness to help anyone, Republican or Democrat, to work out the fine details of a resolution, just for the sake of keeping the board's business moving, is appreciated by everyone."

Moffitt, a single parent of two boys, ages 11 and 10, has been a practicing attorney for more than 22 years, currently maintaining a full-time law practice.



FILE PHOTO
David Moffitt

annual Expo to October.

While it's going to be a busy couple of months, Flaharty may be out of the office quite a bit. In December, she was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma. But she's quick to add her doctors have said the disease is treatable and curable.

A round of chemotherapy will begin soon, followed by radiation treatments.

"I'm as upbeat today as I was the end of November, before I knew I had it," she said.

She found out in an odd way, after having a few health problems late last year. Flaharty came down with a cold that just wouldn't go away and noticed three swollen nodes on her neck. Her doctor thought the two might be related and gave her an antibiotic.

Over the following weekend, she developed a lump the size of an orange. Flaharty spent the next week in the hospital, having tests and biopsies. Doctors found a three-inch tumor in the center of her chest.

"I only worked five days in December, and I don't think anyone knew it," she laughed. "We didn't miss a beat."

Since news of her illness started traveling, Flaharty has been overwhelmed by the support she's received from the commu-



Leadership: Ara Topouz festive mood.

nity. But the most heart-warming outcome has been getting to know more about her pater grandmother, who died of lymphoma before Flaharty was born.

There are parallels in the related diseases and in the fact that her grandmother died in December, the same month Flaharty was diagnosed. While



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