Staying on

Patterson retains 6 of Murphy's key people

PAT MURPHY
STAP WHITEA

SIx holdovers from the outgoing administration have landed jobs with Oakland County oxecutive-elect L Brooks Patterson.

The six, who held key jobs with outgoing executive Daniel T. Murphy, were introduced Thursday at a press conference by Patterson, who said he would announce the remainder of his appointees on Dec. 1.

In what was his second press conference since being elected, Patterson also offered condences to the nine staffers he fired.

"All of these individuals have long and distinguished records of public service," Patterson said of his new appointees. "And they are committed, as I am, to moving Oakland County forward. I wanted my own team with fresh ideas."

But that should not reflect

as."

But that should not reflect poorly on the Murphy staffers be fired. Patterson emphasized. "They are competent and dedicated, and I'm sure they will get comparable jobs. The hardest job facing any new executive is telling people they no longer have a job."

Patterson, who easily defeated Democratic challenger Elizabeth "Betty" Howe in the Nov. 3 elec-tion, was criticized for the way he handled the dismissals of the nine Murphy appointees.

nine Murphy appointees.
Critics, including some of those dismissed, berated Patterson for acting so soon after the election, rather than granting a six-month waiting period as they said he promised during the campaign.
They also accused Patterson of being callous by notifing them by letter — delivered while he was on

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國'Hold off on your criticism. I intend to have women and minorities in the appointments I announce on Dec. 1.'

L. Brooks Patterson



vacation — rather than telling them personally.
Patterson was defensive, almost apologetic. But he steadfastly defended his decisions and the way they were carried out.
"I never promised a grace period," he said. "I said I would take about six months to review county departments, but I never said I'd wait that long before making changes."

I'd wait that long before making changes."

The firings were handled deliberately and fairly, he insisted. "I patterned my transition on the model Gov. John Engler used when he took office."

To illustrate, Patterson noted that news of the dismissals were conveyed in letters over his signature delivered swiftly and decisvely. To linger or delay, he said, "would have been cruel."

He deliberately chose people outside government to deliver the news, Patterson said, so there would be no hard feelings to causinternal problems later on.

Asked why he returned campaign contributions, Patterson said it would have been "unfair"

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to do otherwise. "I wouldn't say it would have been unothical to accept those contributions, that's too strong. But I simply didn't feel right about it."

feel right about it."
One dismissed appointed termed the return of his contribution as "almost insulting."
Patterson's new appointees are:

personnel director, the same sition he held under Murphy. Stanley B. Fayne, reappointed director of risk management

as director of risk management and safety.

3 Jack C. Hays, reappointed as director of the county's department of corporation counsel.

3 Roger J. Smith, reappointed as deputy director of county solid

deputy director of county solid waste.

3. J. David Vander Veer, who was the county's manager of aviation under Murphy, will be the new director of central services.

3. David W. Ross, the county's facilities, maintenance and operations under Murphy.

Asked why there are no women or minorities among his new appointees, Patterson personded, "Hold off on your criticism. I intend to have women and minorities in the appointments I announce on Dec. 1."



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Patterson endorses Archer, Alexander

Two lawyers — one a Democrat, the other a Republican — drew endorsements from L. Brooks Patterson.

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Those endorsements reflect Patterson's personal preference, of course. But they also indicate how the Oakland County executive-elect insects with diverse players in southeastern Michigan.

At a press conference called Thursday to announce some appointments, Patterson endorsed Democrat Dennis Arch or in his bid to become mayor of Detroit, and Republican James M. Alexander, who's battling to keep his job as the county GOP chairman.

chairmon.

In response to questions,
Patterson said he knew Archer
from dealings on several levels,
including some when Archer
was a member of the Michigan

Supreme Court.
Archer resigned that post in 1990, amid speculation he would run for mayor of Detroit. Archer, a former ally of incumbent Mayor Coleman A. Young, held a press conference Thursday to announce his candidacy. "I don't want to jinx his campaign," Patterson chuckled. "But I've known Archer to be a professional" with a high degree of integrity.

Patterson mentioned Alexander the day after a meeting at which some disgruntled Republicans served notice they not pleased with Alexander's lendership and Indicated they would try to out thim as county chalmans." Senses a deciman and a continuation of the sense of the sen

would try to oust him as county chairman.

The Nov. 3 general election was successful for Oakland County Republicans, who un-der Alexander's chairmanship delivered the county to Presi-dent George Bush.



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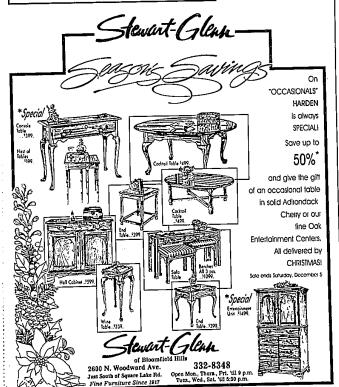
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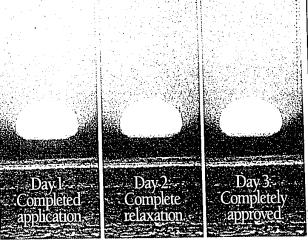
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