County residents applaud mayor's decision

BY PAR MURCHY
STAFF WHITEA
The decision by Coleman
Young to step down as mayor of
Detroit could mean a new beginning for Oakland County communities seeking better relations
with the Motor City.
"A new mayor will enable old
hurts (real or imagined) to heal
and be forgotten," and Aldo Vagnozzi, a Farmington Hills councilman. "A new mayor will mean a
fresh start."
Vagnozzi is one of many Oakland County residents who reacted to Tuesday's decision by
Young to not seek re-election.
Young chose to end his 20-yearrelign as the Motor City's chief exceutive.

But the end of one reign generally marks the beginning of enother, according to Vagnozzi and
others who acknowledge mixed reactions. They expressed begrudging respect for the Coleman
Young who overcame great obstacles to become, at one time, one of
the most powerful black officials
in the country.

But they were glad to see him
go. the country. But they were glad to see him

In their eyes Young had, cor-rectly or otherwise, become an ob-stacle . . . he himself is seen as a barrier between Detroit and su-burbanites, most of whom still have an affinity for the city, even though they no longer live there.

New era

New era

"It's a new era," said Matthew
Wirgau, a Troy resident who is
chairman of the board of directors
of SMART (Suburban Mobility
Authority for Regional Transportation).

"A new mayor will give us the
chance to put our biases saide
and work together," according to
Wirgau, who said the understands
some of Young's views, although
he strongly disagrees with them.
"Coleman Young did what he
thought was the right thing," said
Birmingham City manager Thomas Markus, who noted Detroit experienced devastating shifts during Young's administration.
But many of Young's policies
were rejected by neighboring communities who viewed them as detrimental to auburban interests,
said Markus.

City vs. suburban conflicts will continue to exist, he said. But with a new mayor in Detroit, more cooperative relations are possible. "Birmingham and other communities want Detroit to be strong and vibrant," he said. "That's more likely with a new mayor." Rochester Hills Mayor Billie reland expressed her expectations this way. "Some doors are being opened. With a new mayor, there could be more opportunity for regional approaches to regional problems. "None of the suburban com-munities are islands. They're all better off if they work with De-troit." Oakland County Executive L.

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson agreed.

"A new leader in Detroit will mean new opportunities," said Patterson, who has sometimes been regarded as the arch-conservative mirror image of the utra-liberal Coleman Young.

"A new leader will have new policies, new programs and a new direction," said Patterson. "He or

tures, new initiatives . . that will benefit both sides of Eight Mile Road.

The absence an important pot tween the subur the respects Young's decision not to eaker re-election. But he's not sorry he reached it.

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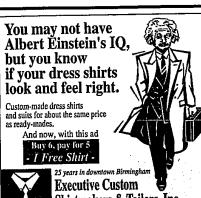
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The absence of Young removes an important point of friction between the suburbs and an agency the Detroit mayor controls, according to West Bloomfield trustee Raymond Holland, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department.





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