



Jarra L. Underwood
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Underwood to relinquish registrar duty

Wayne County, Ohio, Wednesday, July 20, 2022 – Wayne County Auditor Jarra Underwood announced today that she will discontinue her contract as a Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) deputy registrar effective August 3, 2022. She has operated the BMV at 200 Vanover Street, Wooster since 1999.

“This was a decision that has kept me awake at night,” Underwood said. “But it comes down to economics. It is unrealistic for me to continue as registrar of the BMV possibly creating a burden to the taxpayers.

Underwood explained that revenue from the BMV has been on the decline and the office has successfully operated with carryover funds from previous years. However, carryover funds are no longer at a sufficient level to rely on to fill the gap between future revenue and operating expenses.

“If I would have to go to the general fund for money to operate the office, it would create a burden to the taxpayers,” Underwood said. “I can’t justify continuing to operate the BMV and allow that to occur.”

According to Underwood, very few county auditors in Ohio operate license bureaus; most are operated by private entities or non-profit organizations.

“Private owners and non-profits are able to operate the bureau differently than I am required to do by law,” Underwood continued. “Hopefully this decision may open the opportunity for a private business or non-profit to take over as deputy registrar.