

**Veight named shared services coordinator**  
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BRIDGETON - A veteran city attorney has been given a full-time job with the Cumberland County planning and development department.

Joseph Veight III, a municipal prosecutor in Downe and Fairfield townships, was hired Thursday night to a \$50,000 to \$55,000 post as Cumberland County's shared services coordinator.

The shared services coordinator, a position made possible through a \$100,000 grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, will identify areas in which resources could be pooled in county government and the county's 14 municipal governments, potentially saving money and providing more effective services.

Veight said Friday that, as president of the Deerfield Township Board of Education for the last nine years, he has saved the township money in many ways through shared services.

That includes exploring the possibility of sharing a chief school administrator, or superintendent, with another school district.

"By employing shared services in maintenance, custodial services, food service supplies, we've caused the tax burden from the school district to go down," Veight said.

One of the areas which has been discussed in the past as a target for sharing resources is municipal court facilities, which is noteworthy, because of Veight's background as a municipal prosecutor.

In addition to serving with the Deerfield Township Board of Education, Veight is a member of the Cumberland County Improvement Authority's board of directors.

For more than 30 years, he has operated a private law practice in Bridgeton.

Veight begins his new job with the county March 1.

He said it will be challenging but he hopes to make a difference.

"We have economic times right now that call for government to be much more responsive to the needs of the people in a cost effective way," Veight said.

In addition to Veight's hiring, County Administrator Ken Mecouch confirmed Friday that Ma'Quan Dawkins has begun working for the county as an assistant to the county freeholder board.

Dawkins, a Bridgeton High School graduate and former assistant to the county Democratic committee, is currently directing an after-school film project for county high school students. He will receive a \$32,000 to \$40,000 salary for providing administrative duties to the county freeholder board and McCouch.

McCouch said that the county received several resumes from people interested in the county shared services coordinator position.

The assistant to the freeholder board position was unadvertised.