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BARROW URGES BECKHAM TO RESIGN

Attorney General Cox Urged to Resolve this Question Now

DETROIT. October 06, 2009 --- Mayoral Candidate Tom Barrow today called for the immediate resignation of Charles Beckham during a meeting with the Eastside Community Slate.

“Mayor Bing’s vetting process is seriously flawed,” said Barrow. “If media reports are true, this mayor has either knowingly violated MCL 750.118 with the appointment of Beckham as his chief administrative officer or he is dangerously naïve and has ignored the advice of his silk stocking firm of lawyers on his vetting transition team.”

“If Bing does not ask for the resignation,” said Barrow, “then I encourage Michigan Attorney General Michael Cox to immediately rule on the applicability of MCL 750.118 to Mr. Beckham and clear this very serious allegation which has caused yet another cloud to hang over the City of Detroit.”

“If the allegations are true, Bing himself needs to personally reimburse the city for the \$69,000 Beckham has been paid illegally by the City since May and Beckham himself reimburse the millions he has been paid over the last eight years during the Kilpatrick years till now,” added Barrow.

“This mayor acts sanctimonious telling Detroit how honest he is when all the time he knew or should have known that the law was being blatantly violated with this inappropriate hiring,” Barrow told the gathering.

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In 1984, former city water and sewage department director Charles Beckham was convicted of taking \$16,000 in bribes for a sludge-handling contract. Under Michigan law MCL 750.118, anyone convicted of bribery is permanently barred from holding public office or accepting political appointment.

“This is three strikes,” said Barrow. “First, Bing recruits an alleged drug gang lawyer to his crisis team; second his press secretary suddenly resigned when a past drug conviction resurfaced and now, Beckham. Detroiters deserve better.”

“Maybe Beckham can go work for the same computer company as former mayor Kilpatrick so he too can pay back his debt to the city,” quipped Barrow at the end of the meeting.

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