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BARROW CALLS ON FEDS TO MONITOR ELECTION

Says City's Erstwhile 24 Year Director of Elections Should Be Fired

DETROIT. October 22, 2009 --- At a packed press conference today at his attorney's office, Mayoral Candidate Tom Barrow asked the FBI, the U.S. Department Justice's Civil Rights Division-Voter Fraud Section, the Michigan Attorney General, the Michigan Secretary of State and the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan to send monitors to watch over Detroit's November 3 election. Earlier this week, Barrow sent letters to the directors of all the authorities requesting their assistance.

"We need to assure Detroiters of the efficacy of Detroit's election process and that the November 3 election is above board and that there is no electronic on-site or remote manipulation of any of the results," said Barrow. Engaging the authorities as watchdogs will alleviate Detroiters' concern so that they can again trust that the process is fair and above board.

"The integrity of Detroit's election process continues to be called into question by so many Detroiters and the one comment element is the 24-year erstwhile Director of Elections, Daniel Baxter," said Barrow. "We cannot continue to have this cloud hang over our city and he should be fired immediately...he cannot be trusted. The people of Detroit do not trust Baxter or the election process if it's under his control. The city's electors have crucial and important decisions to make in just 12 days."

"Detroiters have no faith that elections director Daniel Baxter can run a clean election...none. He resists every attempt to check on him and his actions are at best suspicious and may well be worse. I for one do not trust him," added Barrow.

Flanked by his attorneys, Barrow handed attendees a "Hacking Democracy" video that highlights problems in other states that use the M-100 computer and their memory cards which are similar to those used in Detroit's electronic voting machines. Barrow waved a check for \$6,290 made out to the Detroit Board of Canvassers which represents the cost of a citywide recount.

"I will check on the unaccountable veteran Daniel Baxter whether he likes it or not...we will show the people," said Barrow. "Our vote is just too sacred and too many have died in other countries to have a low level employee like Baxter block our path to a free and unhampered election at this most monumental moment in time in our Detroit history, when everything Detroiters hold dear is trying to be taken away from us."

Barrow then laid out for the group several pieces of evidence including:

- The 2005 election where the power failed and vote totals of 60,000 plus, were reversed within minutes when Kwame Kilpatrick suddenly pulled ahead of frontrunner Freman Hendrix;
- Violation of the "Open Meetings Act" with no postings of the Detroit Board of Canvassers meeting dates and sessions;
- The improper interception of the letter to the Detroit Board of Canvassers by Daniel Baxter from Barrow claiming that, in Baxter's view, Barrow cannot have a recount since he came in second and is not "aggrieved." Barrow had asked for a sample recount pursuant to state law of the paper ballot validation of 29 out of 629 precincts to test the system. This requested sampling where Baxter was the employee being checked, as opposed to official(s) at the Detroit Board of Canvassers to whom the request was formally and legally addressed;
- Odd disparities between the numbers of voters reported to the public as voting on August 4, 2009 and certified by the Detroit Board of Canvassers of 97,903. Only 96,781 were reported to the State of Michigan for the same election, a disparity of 1,122;
- In the city's May 5, 2009 special election, the votes certified to the public was 95,472, but on file and reported to the State of Michigan was 97,499, a difference of 1,846; and
- There were disparities for the February 24, 2009 special run-off primary election with 91,811 being certified and only 89,261 being reported to the state.

For more details on Barrow's platform, visit TomBarrowforMayor.com or call 313-9-BARROW.

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