

BARROW SAYS BING TEAM HERE TO DISMANTLE CITY
Cuts in Services Sets Stage for Selling Off City Assets,
Privatization Pay-Off to Campaign Cronies

Detroit (July 22) Mayoral candidate Tom Joe Barrow today called on Interim Mayor Dave Bing to come clean on his long-term agenda to dismantle Detroit government, rather than looking for savings that maintain the city's jewels, as he announces cuts in vital city services.

"This Mayor has to learn to defend his plans in public," declared Barrow, "there are no free-throws in Detroit politics."

Barrow stated, "with no public debate on his plans, no community appearances, and no interaction with grassroots stakeholders, this placeholder Mayor has continue to disrespect the public as he tears apart the city's resources, privatizes and gives city assets to outside political cronies."

"It doesn't take a 'pop-star' to run this city, it takes a strong, straight-forward, transparent leader who cares about the people he is elected to live among and serve," Barrow said.

Barrow criticized the secret behind-the-scenes machinations of Bing's so-called "crisis team" of monied outsiders currently operating out of public view while thumbing their nose at accountability.

"Bing is secretly plotting to turn the great city of Detroit into a municipal shell, a city in name only, and its valuable assets turned over to holding companies called "regional authorities"," said Barrow, 60. "We had a Manchurian candidate in last February's

primary who refused to reveal his plans and advisors, and now we have a Manchurian Mayor who is blindly executing secret plans of his outside backers with no regard to the public's right to know who is really in charge and what they plan to do. There has not been a single public forum or appearance by this mayor to discuss his plans. Why he is hiding from his own people?"

Barrow singled out Bing's uninformed approach to budgeting, relying on cuts first without a detailed look at changing fiscal policies.

"First, he underestimates the City's real deficit by continually using three-year-old figures for the deficit, which is actually nearing \$1 billion," said Barrow. "Second, he has not been transparent with the public on the work of his secret crisis team and their priorities, which apparently are to dismantle the city instead of restoring and growing it," he continued.

Barrow said his analysis of the city's budget points to reckless departmental cost over-runs which demonstrate that city records are in disarray and likely rife with economic theft. This is systemic classic text book mismanagement by day-to-day managers.

Barrow said "We need to immediately implement zero-based budgeting, justify expenditures and create incentives for employee-initiated savings that will work to stem the tide of the debt, while we look to create new revenue streams with new technology products by Public Lighting, Water & Sewage, the City Airport and other city-owned proprietary departments."

Advantages of zero-based budgeting include: allocating resources efficiently based on needs and benefits and not protecting bureaucratic turf; it forces managers to look for cost-effective

improvements to operations; and it detects inflated budgets, which has been a Detroit standard operating procedure that has helped to bring about this crisis over many decades.

“When a city needs a better basketball team, it hires a coach, not an accountant, and when it needs better fiscal management, it hires a CPA, not a basketball player,” said the 30 year veteran of the accounting field.

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