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MAYORAL CANDIDATE TOM BARROW ISSUES BING'S DINGS - 50 DAY REPORT CARD

Gives Failing Grades on Financial Mismanagement, No Transparency, Being Still a Rich Detroit Renter

DETROIT. June 23, 2009— Mayoral candidate Tom Barrow today released his report card of Interim Mayor Dave Bing's first 50-days in office with a list of Bing's "Dings": inexperienced comments, rookie political mistakes and showing disregard for the Detroit voters whom he promised and expected more.

Bing's Dings: Missteps in the first 50-days in office:

1. Admitted his inexperience with city finances: "its all in a gray area that I don't understand"

Grade F: A recent report that the City has been illegally siphoning dedicated funds from the Library and Public Schools to pay for city governmental operations circumvented the public and the City Council. "Every city executive who participated in the diversion of these School and Library funds, including the Interim Mayor, should stand before the public and explain themselves," said Barrow. Two weeks ago, Barrow released his assessment that the City was underestimating the true deficit which, according to Barrow, was nearing \$1 billion.

2. RenCen GM giveaway deal shows he can be intimidated.

Grade F: Bing folded under Wayne County Executive Ficano's intimidation and disrespect when he fell for the empty threat that General Motors was leaving downtown for Warren. A ploy to bully a weak Detroit Mayor. "GM had and has no intention of ever leaving Detroit, and we should never have allowed Bing to agree to give away \$25 million in tax revenue without any analysis, public hearings or even the certitude that GM was even considering Warren, which we all know it was not," declared Barrow.

3. Detroit Police are underestimating crimes statistics.

Grade D: Recent reports in the media have uncovered that DPD may have purposely

underestimated murder stats. Bing's response: No comment. "Apparently this manipulation of murder statistics has been occurring before Bing's administration but he has made no comment to address the problem and its potential legal ramifications for lying to the FBI and other authorities that rely upon these statistics for funding formulas and abatement strategies; this is unacceptable for a leader of a major city," stated Barrow.

4. Cobo Hall deal is – a giveaway of valuable city jewel with Detroit being relegated to observer status over its own asset.

2. Grade F: While other major municipalities enjoy majority control of their assets when it is utilized in a joint operating authority (e.g. New York's Javits Center), Interim Mayor Bing is about to approve a giveaway of Cobo Hall with only one vote and no guarantees of jobs for Detroiters and contracts for Detroit-based businesses. "He was not elected to preside over the yard sale of Detroit's assets; we have to fight to rebuild our city, not acquiesce to its enemies," declared Barrow.

5. No Personal Commitment to City

Grade F: The Interim Mayor began his run for Mayor by renting a small condo on East Jefferson for some 9 months after decades in Oakland County ... Just so that he could run for the city's highest office, but every night he still slept in his multi-million dollar gated home in Franklin; now he has a luxurious abode on Detroit's far eastside, but **still** renting. "He has no commitment to the city, he sees himself as a temporary leader and will still maintain his real home in the City of Franklin in the suburbs, a travesty of leadership in a city that needs hands-on dedication to its problems, not drive-by management," Barrow said.

6. His crisis team is still not vetted and Detroiters do not know what they are doing.

Grade F: First, he allowed an alleged drug gang consigliere onto his so-called "crisis team", then his Communications Director resigns to go back to his city-contracted investment firm with no regard to potential conflicts of interest, and the public still does not know who is doing what to the city and still have not seen a final report on their vetting for public office. "The real crisis for Bing is not the city, it's his own secretiveness and obfuscation of the responsibilities of public office, first of which is transparency," according to Barrow.

7. Stated he wants to sell off Public Lighting.

Grade F: Bing has no report, proposal, assessment nor analysis of the impact on selling Public Lighting but he feels free to express his plan on national television. "In a Barrow administration, Public Lighting will be the leader in revenue generating and selling new energy power by manufacturing solar panels, windmills and turbines."

8. Violated his promise of Change by appointing retreads from previous administrations with no new faces or changes to outdated fiscal policies.

Grade F: Bing brought back the very same Chief Financial Officer under Kilpatrick who has proven incapable of delivering audits that are now three years late, jeopardizing state and federal funding for the city and its credit rating. “Because I used to be a CPA, my CFO will be working directly and daily under me to ensure our complete and total compliance. A Barrow administration will call for scraping the city’s budgeting process and immediately implementing a zero-based budget; making department heads accountable and requiring them to justify their budgets before a five-member panel of Detroit government financial experts,” declared Barrow.

For more information about Barrow’s platform, visit www.anewvisionfordetroit.com or telephone his campaign office at 9-BARROW.

ABOUT TOM BARROW

A lifelong Detroiter, Barrow, 60, graduated from Detroit’s Annunciation Catholic High School in 1967 and Wayne State University in 1971 with a degree in accounting. He received his masters of business administration degree from Wayne State University in 1979. Barrow is married and lives on Detroit’s east side with his wife, teenage daughter and nine-year-old son.