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**BARROW CALLS FOR RESIGNATION OF
BING'S TOP ADVISOR AND FINANCE OFFICER**

Holds Charles Beckham and Norm White Responsible for Budget Crisis

DETROIT. August 21, 2009 ---- Mayoral candidate Tom Barrow speaking at an endorsement hearing with the Michigan Black Democrats today called for the resignation of Interim Mayor Bing's Chief Operating Officer Charles Beckham and Chief Financial Officer Norm White and asserted that they should be held accountable for the budget crisis forcing the layoffs of hundreds of city employees.

"Bing promised change and gave us cronyism, he promised us a clean slate and gave us dirty windows," said Barrow. "We cannot allow him to continue to blame city workers for this crisis when the real blame sits to his left and to his right and continues to give him poor advice."

Both Beckham and White are long time city managers who have been overseeing key city departments for the past 20 years.

"This duo has provided the City of Detroit with the worst financial management of any city in the entire nation and yet they continue to be reappointed and even given raises," declared Barrow. "If Bing had these two in his steel business, his shareholders would have forced them out and called for his resignation too for keeping such proven incompetent staff while the firm's shareholder's investment was frittered away."

Beckham has a long career in Detroit government serving as head of the city's Water and Sewage 20 years ago under Coleman A. Young, and as its Chief Operating Officer. He was later appointed as head of the City's Parks & Recreation and then Public Lighting under Kwame Kilpatrick.

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White headed both the Transportation Department and the City's Finance Department under Kilpatrick, then was let go by Acting Mayor Ken Cockrel, Jr., but was inexplicably rehired by Bing.

Under White's tenure, designated funds for the Detroit Public Schools and Library were illegally misappropriated and spent to pay city vendors and millions of dollars in "quick checks" were issued with little or no supporting documentation and state-mandated audits.

The State continues to withhold tens of millions of dollars due to White's late submission of the City's audit reports which are two, and now going on three, years late. This delay forces much-needed funds to be withheld by Lansing.

Bing recently announced plans to privatize collections, but his spokesman admits he is unable to provide any analysis on how much savings would be achieved, bringing into question the necessity for such change at the expense of city employee jobs.

"It is apparent even to the casual observer that for all of their experience, both Beckham and White are not only bumbling and incompetent managers, but have not been truthful about the city's finances for many years. Neither has reported a single incident of corruption and both have allowed cost over-runs in nearly every city department." charged Barrow. "This unacceptable non-performance is most reprehensible when city workers are forced to lose their jobs, homes and quality-of-life because of their incompetence."

Barrow concluded, "The first priority of a Barrow administration is the hire a sharp CPA to run Finance and to perform an extensive top to bottom technical "CPA Compilation" of every city department to ascertain the full extent of the damage done by this duo over the years."