



June 1, 2011

Detroit City Council
1340 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
Detroit, Michigan 48226

**RE: Disapproval of City Council Amendments to Bing Administration's
Proposed Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Budget**

Honorable City Council:

The City Clerk has forwarded me your proposed amendments to my Administration's Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Budget as found in the *City Council Fiscal Analysis Schedule B* and in *The Detroit City Council 2011-2012 Financial and Budgetary Priorities, Public Policy, Planning and Action Resolution*, which were adopted by Your Honorable Body on May 24, 2011 by a vote of 8-1. In accordance with Section 8-208 of the 1997 Detroit City Charter and Section 18-2-22 of the 1984 Detroit City Code, I hereby veto your proposed amendments.

Your Honorable Body's proposed amendments do not affect the structural issues that are negatively affecting the City's finances. Instead, your proposed amendments would negatively impact core services that are expected and deserved by our residents, business owners, and commuters.

Your proposed amendments to reduce the budget for the Detroit Police Department by \$8,352,838 and the Detroit Fire Department by \$4,123,328 will drastically compromise public safety. These cuts represent more than one-third of DPD's budget and two-thirds of DFD's budget for operating supplies, vehicles, and other necessary resources. These cuts will do nothing less than result in fewer police officers on the street and increase response time for police, fire, and emergency medical services runs.

I appreciate Your Honorable Body's cooperation in helping to realize a \$61 million initiative from the Pension Systems. However, our escalating health care costs must be a higher priority than issuing layoffs and further reducing services already severely impacted by prior years' cuts. Implementation of Governor Snyder's 80/20 proposal would save the City \$35 million, and reduce the risk of further State revenue sharing reductions.

It should also be noted that the proposed layoffs by Your Honorable Body would result in an immediate cash flow reduction of \$7-10 million as a result of required payments for accrued vacation and sick time bringing us that much closer to the appointment of an Emergency Financial Manager.

The Detroit Department of Transportation budget reduction could eliminate Sunday bus service. The reduction of \$7,880,782 will significantly impact bus services to residents who do not have any other means of transportation for work, worship or recreation. In addition, the Detroit People Mover, with your proposed reduction of \$4,405,335, will result in the necessity to shut down the rail system. The City must then repay federal grants for the People Mover, and puts the Woodward Light Rail System in jeopardy.

The proposed cuts of \$3,293,551 to the Recreation Department will cause the closure of recreation facilities, negatively impacting our youth and seniors. In addition, the proposed amendments will also eliminate our ability to maintain Hart Plaza, forcing the cancellation of revenue-generating summer festivals.

As Chief Executive for the City of Detroit, I cannot, in good conscience, permit our residents, business owners, and commuters to be denied essential services when other practical and long-term solutions are available. For the reasons stated above, I must veto your proposed amendments to my Administration's Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Budget.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Bing". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "B" at the end.

Dave Bing
Mayor