



Michigan AFSCME Council 25

News Release

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Bing Picks Up Where Kilpatrick Left Off

Blatant Violation of the Law Causes Waste of Time & Resources

Detroit MI October 30, 2009 -- "Why is the person in the mayor's seat so eager to violate the law, and to waste the City's money?" AFSCME Local 542 President Mel Brabson pondered. "On December 23, 2008, the Wayne County Circuit Court ordered the City of Detroit to end further privatization that does not comply with the Privatization Ordinance. On April 03, 2009, the same court specifically ordered the city to stop all work done on certain contracts that were being let in violation of the Privatization Ordinance. This April 03 Order included a specific ban on contract number 2752517.

"Yet again, in October 2009, the Bing administration secretly tried to have City Council approve the same contract which the court had banned from being let: contract number 2752517. The mayor did this without notice to AFSCME, without notice to the court, and without complying with the provisions of the Privatization Ordinance," continued Brabson. "The city neglected to tell City Council about the court injunctions. However, City Council learned of these injunctions and asked the city how it could seek approval of the contract if the court had enjoined the contract. The city responded with lies: that the contract was not barred by the injunctions and that I had approved the contract.

"This contract is an example of how the Bing administration engages in rampant waste of city money and time," Brabson pointed out. "After the April 03, 2009 injunction, contract number 2752517 was discussed at length before City Council, in at least four open sessions. City Council's research and analysis division also took much time reviewing the contract at length. Finally, after wasting so much time and money trying to avoid the Court Orders, on October 29, the Bing administration finally withdrew the contract, when City Council said it would not approve it.

"This contract also shows how it typically costs more to have private contractors do the work that City workers can perform," Brabson concluded. "For instance, G Trees, the contractor in question, was to be paid \$375 to cut down and remove a tree 25-30 inches in diameter. For three City workers to do the same job, in the two hours it would take, being paid \$28/hour (including fringe benefits), the City would pay about \$168 for the job. In other words, the City workers cost less than half of what the contractor costs."

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