

APPROVED - 2/10/16

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STATE OF MICHIGAN

In the Matter of:

CITY OF FLINT

RECEIVERSHIP TRANSITION ADVISORY BOARD

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Proceedings had in the above-entitled matter,
taken by Claudia M. Weekly, CSR-2963, and Notary Public, on
Friday, January 22, 2016, at 1101 South Saginaw Street,
Council Chambers, Flint, Michigan, commencing at or about 2:11
P.M.

APPEARANCES:

FRED HEADEN, Chair

MICHAEL FINNEY, Member

MICHAEL TOWNSEND, Member

DAVID MCGHEE, Member

BEVERLY WALKER-GRIFFEA, Member

ERIC CLINE

1 Friday, January 22, 2016

2 Flint, Michigan

3 1:09 P.M.

4 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Meeting will be in order,
5 please. Let the record reflect that all five members of
6 the RTAB are present. We have a quorum.

7 I would like to, before conducting further
8 business, acknowledge two new additions to the Board,
9 both to my right, Mr. Michael Townsend and Mr. Michael
10 Finney. We look forward with working with both of you.
11 Both of you will be a great addition to the Board. If
12 either one of you have a desire to make any comments now
13 please feel free.

14 MEMBER FINNEY: No.

15 MEMBER TOWNSEND: No.

16 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: The next item is the
17 approval of the agenda. Are there any additions to the
18 agenda? Mr. McGhee?

19 MEMBER MCGHEE: Yes. Mr. Chair, thank you. I
20 would like to make a motion that public comment be moved
21 toward the beginning, so moved after the minutes.

22 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Is there support?

23 MEMBER WALKER-GRIFFEA: Support.

24 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Without objection, the
25 agenda is so amended.

1 The next item of business is the approval of
2 the RTAB minutes of January 13. Those are previously
3 distributed. Are there corrections or additions to those
4 minutes?

5 If not, I'll entertain a motion that the
6 minutes from January 13 be approved.

7 MEMBER WALKER-GRIFFEA: So moved.

8 MEMBER MCGHEE: Support.

9 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Those in favor of the
10 motion please say aye.

11 MEMBER FINNEY: Aye.

12 MEMBER TOWNSEND: Aye.

13 MEMBER MCGHEE: Aye.

14 MEMBER WALKER-GRIFFEA: Aye.

15 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Opposed?

16 The motion is adopted.

17 There is no unfinished business pending.

18 The next item based upon the amended agenda is
19 public comment.

20 Mr. Cline, has anyone signed in to provide
21 public comment?

22 MR. CLINE: Good afternoon. At the moment we
23 have six individuals that have signed in for public
24 comment. Start off with A. Dumas.

25 MR. DUMAS: Good afternoon. My name is A.C.

1 Dumas and I reside at 533 East Rankin Street in the City
2 of Flint. I've been a resident of the City of Flint for
3 my entire life. And I do want to say, according to the
4 agenda, hopefully that this RTAB Board will give the
5 Mayor Karen Weaver her powers back to govern as Mayor of
6 the City of Flint.

7 Now, every one knows that I am anti, I want to
8 repeat that, anti Emergency Managers, anti Emergency
9 Managers appointees, anti this Board, because I don't
10 believe in Emergency Managers.

11 And I'm going to say this as I go to my seat.
12 I'm going to say what God told Moses. The difference, we
13 had one preacher up there. God told Moses tell Pharaoh
14 to let my people go, that they may serve me. And I'm
15 going to say to this RTAB Board I would appreciate if you
16 go to the Governor and tell the Governor to let the
17 people of the City of Flint go so we can be governed by
18 our Bible, which is our own City charter, Constitution of
19 the United States and the State of Michigan.

20 Just to recant, that I am not in favor of
21 Emergency Manager style, a takeover. I do believe in
22 strong government. As you know, strong city governments,
23 as you know, many of you don't know, that last night when
24 we had our city charter review commission meeting that
25 100 percent of the people, residents were there in that

1 packed house say they want a strong mayor form of
2 governor, government that will be able to appoint their
3 own executive staff. And so, I hope that you can send
4 that message to the Governor.

5 You know, water is very important. And you do
6 know that God destroyed the whole world with water.
7 Don't get caught in the judgment of water.

8 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Next, please.

9 MR. CLINE: Keith Pemberton.

10 MR. PEMBERTON: Good afternoon.

11 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Good afternoon.

12 MR. PEMBERTON: I worked for 25 years being a
13 mental health aide. My job was to watch people, watch
14 their nonverbals, hear what they had to say. And hear
15 what they were saying, words that what they meant by what
16 they said instead of what they wanted you to hear. I
17 don't know if you understood what I just said, but it's
18 double-talk. And all we've gotten from Lansing since all
19 this problem started is double-talk. That's all we get
20 from any of the politicians is double-talk.

21 I hope that you guys, reading your nonverbals,
22 I don't believe it, but I hope that you guys will stop
23 this theft of the people's government and give the
24 government back to the people. We didn't do anything to
25 deserve this. Bad politicians did it and bad politicians

1 made the mess we're in now. The people should be able to
2 live freely.

3 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Thank you.

4 MR. CLINE: Pastor Gilbert.

5 PASTOR GILBERT: Good evening to all.

6 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Good evening.

7 PASTOR GILBERT: Pastor Alvin Gilbert. I live
8 at 1906 McPhail Street in the City of Flint. I've been
9 in the City of Flint for 42 years.

10 And I want to say to this Board you look real
11 nice, but nice is not good enough. I want Mayor Weaver
12 to get all the power that the charter has granted her
13 because she deserves it. She has been elected by the
14 city, she is the voice of this city and she is our
15 leader.

16 But I have one problem. I'm nonprofit. You
17 know I'm not Jesus Christ. I'm just nobody. But I have
18 paid taxes. I worked 33 years for General Motors and I
19 paid my taxes. I can't stand Public Act 436, Executive
20 Order 3 or 20 or any other order because it wasn't the
21 order of the people.

22 I'm just a voice crying in the wilderness like
23 John the Baptist. I don't care if you like me. I'm not
24 trying to be popular. I don't want nothing from Mayor
25 Weaver. I don't want nothing from any of her consultants

1 or anybody else. But I am sick and tired of being
2 trampled on by democracy and my rights. I speak for all
3 of the people that can't get down here. Mayor Weaver
4 deserves it. She was elected by the people.

5 But also, I want to know who is going to check
6 Mayor Weaver? Who's going to watch her? No one gets off
7 the hook anymore. We've been mistreated. We've been
8 downtrodden, but we rising up, we going to fight back.
9 Because I ain't running for office. I don't have no big
10 mega church.

11 General Motors sends me my pension every month,
12 and I'm so grateful to God that they do. So, I'm not for
13 sale. You can't buy me. You don't have enough money.

14 So, what I recommend that you do is that you
15 remember that if you do not give this council some power
16 because the council represents the people and their
17 voices must be heard as well. So, give Mayor Weaver her
18 power. She deserves it, she earned it, and the people
19 love her. But we are watching her as well and we are
20 watching you.

21 So, remember Pastor Alvin Gilbert. I live at
22 1906 McPhail Street on the south side of Flint. Anytime
23 you're welcome to come to my home and we can discuss it
24 further or we can talk about it later. I hope that you
25 take what I said to heart because I meant every single

1 word of it. And I intend on driving every demon in this
2 city out in the name of Jesus. God bless you.

3 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Thank you. I would like
4 to acknowledge I believe the Mayor is on the phone, so
5 she's listening in.

6 Next, please?

7 MR. CLINE: Tony Pelladono.

8 MR. PALLADENO: Palladeno.

9 MR. CLINE: Palladeno. My apologies.

10 MR. PALLADENO: Hi, everybody. Tony Palladeno,
11 east side of Flint. Mayor Weaver, I haven't seen you in
12 a while. How are you doing?

13 Just to touch on a little bit, we fought our
14 butts off to get her where she's at, and I say we, a lot
15 of us have. She's got to have her job back. We've got
16 to have this council. And other than that, the citizens,
17 themselves, have got to have someplace to go when they
18 have a complaint. And I don't mean the sidekicks or
19 whatever. We need somebody in here that will listen to
20 us and do something about it.

21 We need our Mayor. We didn't vote for her to
22 listen to somebody else. We've been pounding them
23 streets, you know. And I don't have no hidden agenda.
24 I'm not no church. As far as taxes, we're getting beat
25 up, you guys, the ones that are trying to pay.

1 Mayor Weaver, if you see me right now, I've
2 been trying to meet with you now for two weeks, I've been
3 trying to see you. Please, guys, we got to have our
4 Mayor, honestly, from east side all over the city. Thank
5 you.

6 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Thank you.

7 MR. CLINE: Arthur Woodson.

8 MR. WOODSON: How you doing?

9 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Good afternoon.

10 MR. WOODSON: My name is Arthur Woodson. I
11 live at 402 West Stewart. I'm up here today. I hate
12 that you all are giving her her powers back right now.
13 She need her powers, but the thing is if you look at
14 Hurricane Katrina, if you don't cross your Is, I mean
15 cross your Ts and dot your Is they're going to try to get
16 you for corruption, bribery.

17 I wish they would have cleaned up this mess
18 before they did because I see them trying to put her
19 under the gun and say I told you that she couldn't do it.
20 And they going to try to put every obstacle in her way.

21 If we didn't have this RTAB we would have been
22 on Detroit water because the council voted, along with
23 the Emergency Manager with the RTAB, the council voted to
24 go back to Detroit. But they stopped it by Emergency
25 Manager Jerry Ambrose. So, if we didn't have him here we

1 would have been all right.

2 Mr. McGhee, you know I'm a veteran and you know
3 I fight all day, you know. So, my problem is,
4 Mr. Townsend, you sued the City, so how would you work
5 for the City and you sued the City? Mr. Finney, this is
6 my first time seeing you, but I saw you at the press
7 conference with Snyder.

8 So, we have a lot of puppets sitting up here
9 that will not work for the City. And I'm just saying
10 like I see it because it's agents of the State. RTAB is
11 the agent of the State.

12 Me, myself, I would have never accepted it.
13 I'm unbought and I'm un-bossed, so I'm going to be
14 shouting out doing research all day. I'm not here to
15 pull -- I'm not here to fill up pulpits. I'm not running
16 for political office. And I tell it like it is. If I
17 see you doing wrong, I don't care if you're Democrat or
18 Republican, I'm going to let everybody know. Because
19 this situation we're in right now we shouldn't even be
20 in. Thank you very much.

21 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Thank you.

22 MR. CLINE: Monica Galloway.

23 MS. GALLOWAY: Monica Galloway, 7th Ward City
24 Council member. I want to thank you guys for serving. I
25 do thank you for hearing the voice of the people, giving

1 the power and the leadership back to the Mayor. But I do
2 want to hold this Board accountable because since the
3 council is not going to be the checks and balances of the
4 legislative, my hopes are that we won't go back to
5 politics as we've done in the past.

6 I want to thank this leadership team that has
7 worked very hard in very difficult times. And I
8 understand that the Mayor has the ability to appoint
9 leaders. But I think that it's irresponsible of any
10 leader to come into a situation in a city that is so
11 devastating, and yet, there are still more years ahead in
12 which the devastation hasn't stopped. It doesn't stop
13 because we're in national media about the water. We got
14 some budget issues.

15 And I just ask that the Mayor would take a real
16 good look at the leadership that's in place that has been
17 working through this situation and that you don't always
18 need to reappoint somebody. And I'm asking this Board to
19 make sure that those that come up as an appointee are not
20 the political agenda as usual.

21 One thing I appreciated about the administrator
22 and the way that the order was written is that they
23 didn't have to get caught into the political ties of a
24 mayoral race. They could do the services of the city
25 every day without the hanging over them that because the

1 leadership has changed I might get a notice today. And
2 so, it gives you the freedom to serve and do everything
3 you can for this community. And I'm asking that this
4 Board will still allow that to happen. Thank you so
5 much.

6 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Thank you.

7 MR. CLINE: That concludes public comment.

8 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: The next item, new
9 business, consideration of resolution, RTAB resolution
10 2016-1. For discussion purposes only is there a motion
11 that the resolution be approved?

12 MEMBER FINNEY: Mr. Chairman, I would move for
13 approval.

14 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Is there support?

15 MEMBER TOWNSEND: Support.

16 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Motion has been made and
17 seconded. Any discussion?

18 MEMBER WALKER-GRIFFEA: I believe that the
19 Mayor would like to discuss this point.

20 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Madam Mayor, are you still
21 with us?

22 Madam Mayor, are you still with us?

23 Dr. Weaver?

24 MAYOR WEAVER: Okay. It keeps going out.

25 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Do you have comments to

1 offer regarding the proposed resolution?

2 MAYOR WEAVER: Can you hear me?

3 MEMBER WALKER-GRIFFEA: Yes.

4 MEMBER MCGHEE: Yes.

5 MAYOR WEAVER: Okay. Well, first of all, I
6 really wanted to thank you for having this special
7 meeting. And it's another great day to help bring Flint
8 back, and I want to thank the Governor and his staff to
9 help make this possible, I really do.

10 I need to thank my transitional team as well
11 for their help in the negotiations. And I really want to
12 thank the media, both the local and the national, who
13 helped us get our story out.

14 And, you know, I recognize and we recognize
15 that we have a lot of work yet to do. I thank the Board
16 for stepping forward and I appreciate it. I really wish
17 I was there in person, to be perfectly honest, but
18 there's a snowstorm here and I've been up since
19 4:00 o'clock trying to get my reservation changed and I
20 haven't had any luck doing it.

21 But I do just want people to know that I will
22 continue to be responsible and thoughtful about how I
23 entertain moving forward. So, I just wanted an
24 opportunity to express that to you and thank you for
25 calling the meeting today.

1 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Thank you, Madam Mayor.

2 I want to also acknowledge I believe Council
3 President Nelson is here. President Nelson, do you have
4 any comments you'd like to offer with regard to the
5 resolution?

6 MR. NELSON: Good evening to this Board and to
7 the new faces on this Board. I am in support of
8 returning the Mayor her power, but I want it to be clear
9 that this Governor needs to understand that this is a
10 two-way street and this is not a one-way street. And I
11 support him giving the Mayor her power, but he really
12 needs to consider that the people voted for us as elected
13 officials, also. And so, we have that right to have our
14 power back.

15 I won't stop the train from running on the
16 track, but the Governor needs to know that on November
17 the 3rd the people elected me, also, as they did Mayor
18 Weaver. And so, we want to have a fair playing field,
19 level playing field. We want to make sure that we're
20 able to make our own decisions for the people that
21 elected us to do so.

22 And so, I'm in support of Mayor having all her
23 power. But the day must come, as council president I
24 must take a stand and say that we serve, all nine of us,
25 and we share responsibilities to be the check and the

1 balance, and you just can't write a check and do what you
2 want with it.

3 And so, to you, and to all of us here today, I
4 appreciate you for being here. I appreciate you for
5 letting me have words to say. But I, as council
6 president, was elected, too, and I need the power, also,
7 to do what the people elected me to do.

8 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Thank you. Before
9 adopting the resolution is there further discussion?

10 MEMBER MCGHEE: Yes.

11 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Mr. McGhee.

12 MEMBER MCGHEE: Thank you. For any American
13 city the Democratic process is one that is vitally
14 important, especially for Flint where since 2002 there
15 have been so many inconsistencies at the municipal level.
16 I mean we're sitting at a point in time in our
17 community's history where we could be facing, we could be
18 known as the largest catastrophe in the state.

19 When you look at similar communities or if you
20 just look at any neighboring community, the financial
21 restructuring of the City of Detroit, they had the
22 control back in addition to an abundance of resources
23 that helped them get through the tough times. And I
24 think, I know I accepted this role on the Transition
25 Advisory Board, as a resident born and raised here, lived

1 here all my life, to see what I could do and assist in
2 transitioning back to local control. And even though
3 whatever decision is made today, this could be a step in
4 the right direction.

5 However, we are leaps away from where we need
6 to be as a city and where we need to be as a community
7 and where the Governor needs to be in supporting us
8 through this particular process. We just need to make
9 sure that we move forward and that we take steps, not
10 laterally leaning on the wrong house.

11 As I understand it, and as the Governor told me
12 when I had a conversation with him earlier, he stated as
13 if he was committed to helping the city through this.
14 And my hope and my desire is as we navigate through these
15 difficult times he works with the City of Flint as a
16 partner and not in a continued form of dictatorship or
17 anything like that.

18 I'm sad that this particular piece didn't
19 happen in a different way. There were conversations -- I
20 made the conversation and the comment and the request to
21 the Governor personally that if he saw fit that the Mayor
22 was in a position to have powers back why wouldn't he
23 just hand over the keys completely, use the charter
24 completely and dismiss the RTAB. That was my
25 recommendation to the Governor.

1 But this could be a start. But if it is to be,
2 so we need to be partners. The state needs to be
3 transparent. They need to give this particular Board
4 information in a timely manner and make decisions based
5 on what's in the best interest of the people and not just
6 what's in the best interest of politics.

7 And the City of Flint and its residents, you've
8 heard, have been here for quite some time. We are
9 resilient people, so we need to make sure that decisions,
10 that all of them are being made based on what's in the
11 best interest of the people as a whole and not just
12 what's in the best interest of individuals.

13 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Further comment or
14 discussion?

15 MEMBER WALKER-GRIFFEA: Mr. Chair?

16 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Yes.

17 MEMBER WALKER-GRIFFEA: I believe that we were
18 appointed as RTAB members to be thoughtful, reflective
19 and decisive for the community. Each one of us has the
20 ethical responsibility to the Flint community to make
21 fully informed decisions. And I know that the original
22 RTAB members really worked hard to embrace our positions
23 and make decisions that we hoped would make our community
24 stronger and better.

25 I've had deep concerns, and I've spoken with

1 the Governor as well, about the deep concerns during the
2 last month and-a-half that we've been called to make
3 decisions without any time to seek clarifying information
4 and support for the decision. I believe to approve any
5 resolution that RTAB needs the opportunity to hear the
6 rationale for the request and the impact on the community
7 and other city functions. My concerns have fallen on
8 process and communication of information.

9 As we consider this new resolution I appreciate
10 that the Governor and his cabinet members this week gave
11 RTAB members insight into the rationale. It helps to
12 clarify the intentions of the resolution and to allow me
13 to fulfill my obligations as an RTAB member. So, I
14 understand, as was presented to me, that Mayor Weaver has
15 shown dramatic growth in her ability to run the local
16 government. That it is viewed that our city is coming
17 together.

18 I certainly understand with the water crisis
19 that it is not a normal time for Flint, and so, we have
20 to accelerate in our processes in order to make our
21 decisions. I know that it is a challenging time and
22 progress is required immediately. And above all, I know
23 that Mayor Weaver needs to have the appropriate skill set
24 and resources to move the community forward.

25 So, as the Board moves forward I'm requesting,

1 Mr. Chair, that RTAB is given the requisite information
2 in a timely manner to do our jobs and that transparency
3 is at the utmost for every issue that befalls RTAB in the
4 future. We cannot be perceived as puppets.

5 Thank you for your consideration of my
6 concerns.

7 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Thank you. Questions on
8 the adoption of the resolution? Is there further
9 discussion, comments?

10 Under our Rules of Procedure, because this is a
11 resolution, a record roll call vote is required. We'll
12 proceed in alphabetical order.

13 Mr. Finney, how do you vote?

14 MEMBER FINNEY: Aye.

15 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Mr. Finney votes aye.

16 Mr. McGhee?

17 MEMBER MCGHEE: Yes.

18 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Mr. McGhee votes aye.

19 Mr. Townsend?

20 MEMBER TOWNSEND: Aye.

21 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Mr. Townsend votes aye.

22 Dr. Walker-Griffiea?

23 MEMBER WALKER-GRIFFIEA: Support.

24 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Dr. Walker-Griffiea votes
25 aye.

1 The Chair votes aye.

2 There are five yeas and no nays. The
3 resolution is adopted.

4 Is there further business before this Board?
5 If not, is there a motion that we adjourn?

6 MEMBER WALKER-GRIFFEA: So moved.

7 MEMBER FINNEY: Seconded.

8 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Motion is made and
9 seconded without objection. We are adjourned. Thank
10 you.


11 (Meeting adjourned at 2:38 PM.)
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
SS)
COUNTY OF GENESEE)

I hereby certify that on the date and at
the place hereinbefore set forth, I reported
stenographically the proceedings held in the matter
hereinbefore set forth, and that the testimony so
recorded was subsequently transcribed by me, and
that the foregoing is a full, true and accurate
transcript of my original stenotype notes.

Dated: January 27, 2016


Claudia Weekly, CSR-2963

Notary Public:
Genesee, Michigan
My Commission Expires:
March 6, 2019