



CITY OF FLINT
OFFICE OF THE EMERGENCY MANAGER



Darnell Earley, ICMA-CM, MPA
Emergency Manager

August 6, 2014

Scott Kincaid, President
Flint City Council
1001 S. Saginaw St.
Flint, MI 48502

RE: Request for Special Council Meeting

Dear President Kincaid:

This letter is in response to the City Council's request for a special City Council meeting to address the 2014 Final Report from the Flint Blue Ribbon Committee on Governance. As you know, this matter was on the agenda of the regularly scheduled Flint City Council meeting on Monday, July 28, 2014 as a special order from me as Flint Emergency Manager. Several members of the Blue Ribbon Committee along with Chairman Robert Wesley were in attendance, in addition to Mayor Walling and Elizabeth Murphy from the administration. The purpose of the special order was for the chairman and the committee to engage the Council in meaningful dialogue, and to solicit productive input relative to the Blue Ribbon Committee's recommendations. Moreover, the meeting was scheduled consistent with my 7 Point Transition Management Plan as it relates to the matter of Governance.

Unfortunately, the intent of the meeting was either lost or totally ignored by a majority of Council members resulting in a squandered opportunity for constructive engagement, in favor of personal attacks directed towards me and members of the administration; irrational and politically motivated criticisms of Governor Snyder; and most egregious, unfair, and obnoxious comments about the volunteers who served on the Blue Ribbon Committee. Should anyone dispute my account of the meeting, I invite their attention to the video recording of the three and one half hour proceeding found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9wLNtEtlwc>.

Such a review clearly illustrates what was truly a sad and embarrassing display for the residents of this community who so desperately need sound elected leadership on these critical issues if Flint is ever to sustain long-term financial and organizational solvency. So far, that has been achieved

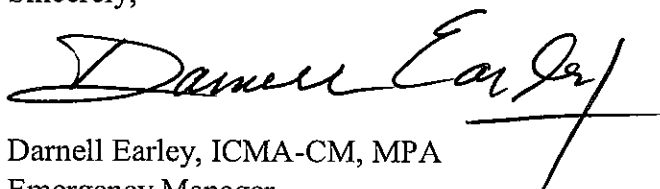
only through multiple state interventions. Ignoring the substance of the Blue Ribbon Committee's recommendations, while individual Council members engaged in verbally abusive grandstanding, and levying ill-advised and unfounded political attacks, does not make a very compelling argument for a return to home rule order of any kind.

I would point out that the individuals who served on the Blue Ribbon Committee were volunteers, the majority of whom are City of Flint residents. They all donated extensive amounts of their personal time to grapple with the complex issue of governance, which has been a key dysfunctional component in Flint's two experiences with state receivership. Over the past six months their work consisted of better than twenty-four hours of meetings, and ten hours of public workshops, spread over three separate meetings. Moreover, a core group of five to six committee members spent several hours planning and hosting the public workshops. Finally, another group of five to six members spent a considerable amount of time editing, reviewing and commenting on the final draft of the report. They were willing to participate in this difficult task because of their dedication to the City of Flint and a deep concern about its future. I have said repeatedly that a third financial emergency in Flint should be avoided at all costs. The Committee recognized the seriousness of this issue as was evidenced by their commitment to the project. It's time that the City Council did as well.

The opportunity for Council to engage on this issue occurred on Monday, July 28, 2014. Council failed to do so. Therefore, I see no useful purpose being served by rescheduling a special meeting just to have a repeat of the same indignant and downright rude treatment of staff and citizens. Given some of the antics I have witnessed over the past few months, I remain unconvinced that the same council members' approach to a substantive discussion would be any different irrespective of how many meetings are held.

For the above reasons, Council's request for a special meeting concerning this matter is hereby denied. If there are legitimate issues council members wish to be considered as the process moves forward, put them in writing directly to me and I will be happy to review them.

Sincerely,



Darnell Earley, ICMA-CM, MPA
Emergency Manager
Flint, MI

cc Wayne Workman, Michigan Department of Treasury
Randall Byrne, Michigan Department of Treasury
Edward Koryzno, Michigan Department of Treasury
Fred Headen, Michigan Department of Treasury
Terry Stanton, Michigan Department of Treasury
Dayne Walling, Mayor

Inez Brown, City Clerk
Peter Bade, City Attorney
Gerald Ambrose, Financial Advisor to the Emergency Manager
Elizabeth Murphy, Assistant to the Emergency Manager
Jason Lorenz, Public Information Officer
Robert Wesley, Chairman, and Members, Flint Blue Ribbon Committee on Governance
Maxine Murray, Assistant to the Mayor/Emergency Manager
Media