

**Ann Arbor City Council Session: April 4, 2011
 Email Redactions List Pursuant to Council Resolution R-09-386**

<u>Received Time</u>	<u>Sent Time</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>CC</u>	<u>Redactions</u>	<u>Reason for Redaction</u>
7:28 p.m.	7:28 p.m.	Teall, Margie	Lower Burns Park Neighborhood Park Association		Email address, residential address, and telephone number Entire email omitted	Privacy
11:18 p.m.	11:18 p.m.	Briere, Sabra	[hacked email address]			Phishing unrelated to city business

Buonodono, Nickolas

From: lowerburnsparkneighborhoodassociation@googlegroups.com on behalf of Nancy [REDACTED]@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 7:28 PM
To: lowerburnsparkneighborhoodassociation@googlegroups.com
Subject: [lowerburnsparkneighborhoodassociation] Clean Energy/ Efficiency Presentation for LoBuPa

Hi LoBuPa,

We have the chance to have a manager from the local non-profit Clean Energy Coalition to speak to our group (see the message below), about how we can all save energy and natural resources in our everyday lives.

I would like to host a meeting for any neighbors who might be interested.

Would you email me:

[REDACTED]@comcast.net

with a simple YES or NO reply so that I can estimate the number who might attend, find a venue, and get a date and time for the event?

Thanks. Nancy Leff [REDACTED]

From: Robyn Skodzinsky [mailto:robyn@cec-mi.org]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 12:10 PM
To: [REDACTED]@comcast.net
Subject: Clean Energy Coalition Energy Efficiency Presentation

Hi, Nancy! I am a Project Manager at Clean Energy Coalition, a 501(c)3 nonprofit based in the local Ann Arbor / Ypsilanti area. We are dedicated to helping homeowners reduce energy costs and recently won a grant enabling us to conduct seminars for associations like Burns Park Neighborhood on energy efficiency and renewable energy! We would like to offer you the opportunity to host my fellow Project Manager Deb Heed, who can present at your next association meeting. Her 20-30 minute presentation is very casual, conversational, and provides plenty of helpful ways to save money and energy while conserving our community's natural resources.

If you're interested in hosting Deb, please let me know what times work for your group. Funds are only available through the end of August, so if you're interested, book soon!

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks!

Robyn Skodzinsky



Robyn Skodzinsky | Project Manager

44 East Cross Street | Ypsilanti, MI 48198
888.818.0987 x704 t | 734.418.1681 f

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups
"lowerburnsparkneighborhoodassociation" group.

To post to this group, send email to lowerburnsparkneighborhoodassociation@googlegroups.com.

To unsubscribe from this group, send email to
lowerburnsparkneighborhoodassociation+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.

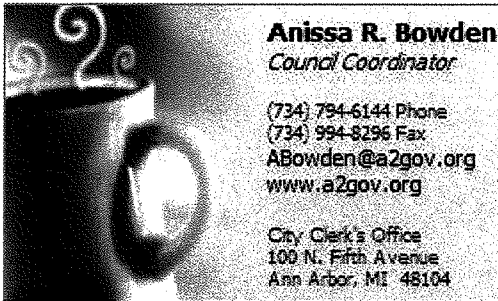
For more options, visit this group at

<http://groups.google.com/group/lowerburnsparkneighborhoodassociation?hl=en>.

Buonodono, Nickolas

From: Bowden (King), Anissa
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 7:30 PM
To: Anglin, Mike; Beaudry, Jacqueline; Briere, Sabra; Dempkowski, Angela A; Derezinski, Tony; Fraser, Roger; Hieftje, John; Higgins, Marcia; Hohnke, Carsten; Kunselman, Stephen; Postema, Stephen; Rapundalo, Stephen; Satterlee, Joanna; Schopieray, Christine; Smith, Sandi; Taylor, Christopher (Council); Teall, Margie; Wondrash, Lisa
Subject: 4/4/11 Update
Attachments: Anissa R Bowden.vcf; DC-1Revision2.pdf

DC-1 has been revised and added to the council link. It is also added to this email for convenience.



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Thank you.



City of Ann Arbor

DC-1 Revised

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
<http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Text File

File Number: 11-0043

Agenda # DC-1

Introduced: 1/18/2011

Version: 3

Current Status: Held in Council

Matter Type: Resolution

Resolution Authorizing that the Ann Arbor DDA Develop an Implementation Plan to Redevelop Downtown City-Owned Parcels

Ann Arbor City Council authorized the establishment of the Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority in 1982 with the mission to undertake public improvements that have the greatest impact in strengthening the downtown area and attracting new private investments. The DDA accomplished a great deal, and in 2003 Ann Arbor City Council authorized an amendment to the DDA Development Plan that extended the DDA's TIF capture until 2033 and set forward new strategies to accomplish the DDA's mission. One of these key strategies is the pursuit of development partnerships in which the DDA set forward that it would strive to encourage downtown development that realizes community goals and objectives.

The DDA is uniquely structured to develop an overarching strategy to develop City-owned downtown properties, to facilitate the process of writing/distributing effective RFPs and RFQs to solicit developer proposals, and to facilitate bringing to City Council proposed development projects on City-owned properties.

SPONSORS: Taylor, Teall, Hohnke

Resolution Authorizing that the Ann Arbor DDA Develop an Implementation Plan to Redevelop Downtown City-Owned Parcels

Whereas, The Ann Arbor City Council authorized the establishment of the Ann Arbor DDA in 1982, and reauthorized it in 2003 with the mission to undertake public improvements that have the greatest impact in strengthening the downtown area and attracting new private investments;

Whereas, The DDA is effectively structured to develop an overarching strategy to develop City-owned downtown properties, to facilitate the process of writing and distributing effective requests for proposals ("RFPs") and requests for qualifications ("RFQs") to solicit developer proposals, and to facilitate bringing to City Council proposed development projects on City-owned properties within the DDA as identified on Exhibit A, and as may be amended from time to time by the mutual agreement of the City and the DDA ("Parcels");

Whereas, the Downtown Plan recommends that the City "[i]dentify those downtown areas with the highest potential for growth and develop Area Urban Design Plans as advisory, site-specific development guidelines."

Whereas, The Ann Arbor City Council has an interest in the DDA developing a plan to maximize community value of Parcels that includes the following:

- Building a parcel-by-parcel downtown development strategy based upon existing planning documents, the final A2D2 Guidelines and Strategies, future work sessions with City Council, and community meetings and input;
- Writing and distributing RFPs and RFQs based on City Council-approved plans, and providing a recommendation to City Council for developer selections and facilitating negotiations for purchase and development agreements;
- Ongoing information-sharing with community members and prospective downtown developers about downtown development opportunities,

RESOLVED, City Council authorizes the Ann Arbor DDA to take responsibility for facilitating the process of redeveloping Parcels as follows:

Phase I – DDA assembles information and brings in development expertise

Assess potential downtown development sites:

City information

- Planning Department: Consult the Downtown Plan, Central Area Plan, A2D2, and other pertinent City-approved Plans
- Planning Department: Gather zoning, character area, historic district, and other Parcel-specific data
- Public Services: Obtain detailed public infrastructure information for Parcels, including data on adjacent storm, water, and sanitary main capacity, hydrant coverage and other capacity-related information
- City Environmental: Solicit potential Brownfield opportunities and review known environmental issues for each Parcel
- DDA and Planning Department: Map Parcel land use information, including proximity to retail corridors, anchor institutional locations, vehicular and foot traffic estimates, green space, walking distances to landmark destinations

SPARK USA information

- DDA requests that SPARK provide information on potential state and federal development incentives

- DDA requests that SPARK share information regarding current and potential business interest in downtown Ann Arbor and SPARK's advice on attracting business and development to the downtown

Professional expertise

- Hire real estate consultant(s) to provide detailed Parcel-specific information, as well as data regarding broader market conditions, including development demand, financing, residential and commercial leasing rates, and current valuations for downtown properties
- Invite Councilmembers, developers, DDA members, planning commissioners, and other interested parties from other jurisdictions to Ann Arbor to explain how their communities successfully redeveloped parcels in their downtowns

Phase II - Visioning Downtown Development

Build upon the final A2D2 Guidelines and Strategies to develop a Parcel-by-Parcel Plan. Each individual Parcel is not expected to reflect every community goal, but in the aggregate the Parcel-by-Parcel Plan will project a downtown consistent with the community's downtown vision

- Hold work session(s) with City Council and the City Planning Commission to prioritize Parcel development goals, such as purchase price maximization; catalyze growth and improvement in adjacent parcels; maximize pedestrian activity; or strong/iconic design characteristics
- Collate relevant data from A2D2 public meetings and surveys to determine broad community vision
- Solicit robust public input and conduct public meetings to determine residents' Parcel-level downtown vision
- Solicit UM, EMU, and other higher education faculty to authorize class participation in the visioning process
- Meeting(s) with UM Planning staff to maximize coordination
- Meetings with business and community leaders to obtain their analysis of downtown's strengths and weaknesses, its opportunities and inherent obstacles
- Research development plans and processes in comparable communities

Phase III - Taking these ideas and shaping a strategic plan for City Council approval

Finalize a Parcel-by-Parcel Plan to articulate Parcel-specific desired land uses and design components

- Draft the Parcel-by-Parcel Plan
- Solicit robust public input and confirm the extent of community consensus for the Parcel-by-Parcel Plan through public meetings and surveys
- Hold meetings with business and community stakeholders to determine professional assessment of the Parcel-by-Parcel Plan
- Revise the Parcel-by-Parcel Plan as needed
- Meet with Planning Commission and City Council
- Obtain Planning Commission and City Council approval of the Parcel-by-Parcel Plan, as an amendment to the Downtown Plan

Phase IV - Implement the Parcel-by-Parcel Plan

Pursue Parcel 1

- Consider/approve DDA incentives, such as parking, affordable housing, pedestrian improvements, and use of DDA TIF
- Draft RFP with DDA real estate consultant and City Staff
- City Council reviews/approves RFP
- Distribute RFP utilizing DDA real estate consultant to ensure wide distribution in, and coordination with, development community
- Conduct pre-proposal meetings and tours of the Parcel
- Assemble an Advisory Committee consisting of DDA members, City Planning Commission members, community members, development professionals, City Staff, and City Council members
- Advisory Committee conducts Proposal review and developer interviews
- Advisory Committee provides DDA with its recommendation
- DDA reviews and considers Advisory Committee recommendation
- Forward approved recommendation to City Council
- City Council reviews/decides upon DDA proposal recommendation
- DDA consultant assists DDA as DDA and City Staff negotiate purchase and other project details
- City Council reviews and approves agreements to purchase and redevelop Parcel
- City Council reviews and approves the Parcel site plan and site plan development agreement, after receiving a recommendation from the City Planning Commission
- Project constructed

Repeat with other Parcels

RESOLVED, that for items above requiring City Council approval, the City Administrator shall place such items on the agenda of City Council no later than thirty (30) days after the City Administrator's receipt thereof. In the event that such item is not voted upon within thirty (30) days of being placed upon the agenda, then at each subsequent meeting of the City Council where the item does not appear on the agenda, the City Administrator during Communications from the City Administrator shall provide a status report as to reasons for the item's failure to appear on the agenda.

RESOLVED, that in light of the DDA's expenditures of Phase IV monies in reliance upon City Council's approval of the Parcel-by-Parcel Plan, any resulting RFP, and the DDA-proposal recommendation, if City Council declines to approve a Parcel site plan for any reason other than the site plan not complying with applicable zoning regulations, then the City of Ann Arbor shall reimburse the DDA for all direct DDA Phase IV costs related to such Parcel ("Parcel Costs"), provided that the DDA has provided to the City an accounting of DDA Parcel Costs incurred to date (and its estimate for future Parcel Costs) at each instance at which DDA requests Phase IV approval with respect to such Parcel.

* * *

Exhibit A

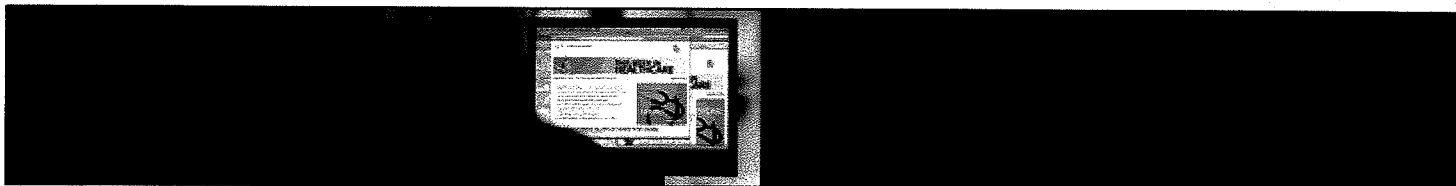
[City Owned Parcels]

Buonodono, Nickolas

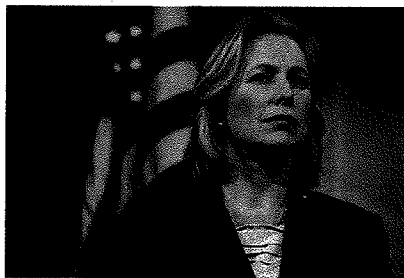
From: Congress.org [congressorg@capwiz.com]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 7:48 PM
To: Hieftje, John
Subject: Would Congress Get Paid During a Shutdown?



April 04, 2011



Insurance Industry Seeks to Raise Driving Age



The insurance industry is putting its lobbying muscle behind a bill by New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand that would require all states to set 18 as the minimum age for a driver's license free of restrictions.

Gillibrand says she's pursuing the legislation because of the high rate of serious accidents among teen drivers.

That would be a big change. Right now, only 12 states and the District of Columbia require teens to reach 18 before they enjoy full driving privileges. The rest are split between 16 and 17 and a half.

[Read more about the change in driving age.](#)

Get on Your Soapbox

Want to make your voice heard concerning issues important to you? Get on your soapbox and make it happen! Our Soapbox feature allows you to give exposure to your issue and lets other Congress.org users take action on the alerts you create. Registered users are now allowed four free soapbox alerts per month!

Track Your Lawmakers

Want to track votes cast by your Members of Congress? [Sign up](#) for our regular MegaVote newsletter.

**Signed, Sealed,
Hand-Delivered!**

Did you know that you can have your message hand-delivered to the door of your Members of Congress? For a small fee, we can give your letter "Extra Impact" to help make your voice heard. Select that option when filling out your message on any topic.

Add Us

Don't forget to add congressorg@capwiz.com to your address book to ensure prompt delivery of this newsletter each week.

Congress Q&A: Shutdown Pay

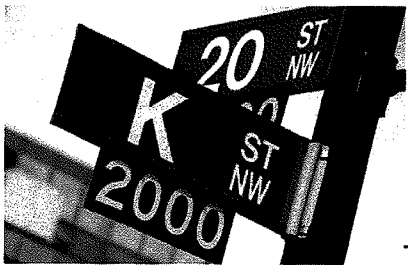


This week, Congress Q&A reporter Frances Symes answers a question related to the threat of a federal government shutdown:

"If the government shuts down, will Congress still get paid?" — Clark Forte, Elko New Market, Minn.

If you have a question you'd like answered, e-mail editor@congress.org. Please include your name and hometown.

Lobbyists Walk Back Through Revolving Door



The path from Congress to K Street is as well worn as any in Washington.

The path back is becoming nearly as popular, with many lobbyists giving up big salaries to take jobs as senior aides to lawmakers and their committees, where pay is limited to about \$170,000 a year.

In a recent study, the Center for Responsive Politics found that at least 43 of the 334 top congressional committee staff members previously worked as federal lobbyists.

To the center that raises concerns about outside interests, but the former lobbyists say they're

doing it because they believe in their new bosses' causes.

[Read more about the revolving door.](#)

Tell Congress: Government Shutdown

FAVOR OR OPPOSE?

**GOVERNMENT
SHUTDOWN**

Congress could be heading toward a government shutdown.

Although Republican and Democratic leaders recently agreed to a two-week extension on federal spending, a compromise that could delay but not totally forestall a shutdown.

The main issue in the dispute is how much federal spending to cut. Some House Republicans want to cut as much as \$100 billion from this year's budget.

Now is the time to tell Congress what you think. Click to e-mail your lawmakers through Facebook:

[Stop a Government Shutdown](#) or [Let the Government Shut Down](#)

If you do not wish to write through Facebook, you can send a letter through Congress.org instead:

[Stop a Government Shutdown](#) or [Let the Government Shut Down](#)

So far, 78 percent of 1,885 users have written urging Congress to shut down the government, while 22 percent have opposed a shutdown.

[Republicans consider a two-year budgeting process.](#)

Democrats seek to maintain the EPA's authority over greenhouse gases.

Violence in Mexico makes border agent recruitment difficult.

Wisconsin's labor fight sparks national political conflagration.



Government Shutdown Prevention Act

This bill would declare the House-passed spending bill, H.R. 1, to be enacted if the Senate does not pass a FY2011 spending bill by April 6. Supporters say the vote highlights the Senate's inability to pass a budget, while opponents say the bill is unconstitutional.

Passed: 221-202, 1 Present, 8 Not Voting

The HAMP Termination Act of 2011

The House voted to end the Home Affordable Modification Program, a home foreclosure prevention program that uses Troubled Asset Relief Program money to help homeowners modify their mortgages. The Senate is unlikely to take up the bill.

Passed: 252-170, 1 Present, 9 Not Voting

See how your representatives voted. [Sign up for our free weekly email.](#)

What's Happening in California — Or Your State?



It can be hard to keep track of California's lawmakers.

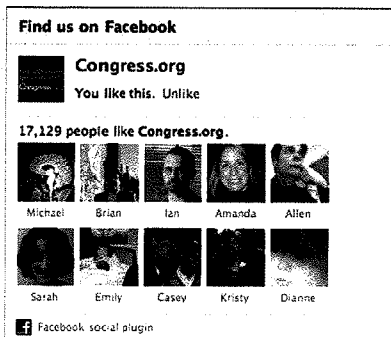
Sen. Barbara Boxer defending the federal budget. Rep. Darrell Issa launching investigations. Rep. Jane Harman retiring.

That's why we created a Facebook page where you can track all the news about the Golden State's delegation — [CongressCA](#).

In fact, we started 50 pages, one for each state in the union. Simply find your state in the list below, go to the Facebook page and click the thumb's up "Like" button at the top of the page.

[Alabama](#) | [Alaska](#) | [Arizona](#) | [Arkansas](#) | [California](#) | [Colorado](#) | [Connecticut](#) | [Delaware](#) | [Florida](#) | [Georgia](#) | [Hawaii](#) | [Idaho](#) | [Iowa](#) | [Illinois](#) | [Indiana](#) | [Kansas](#) | [Kentucky](#) | [Louisiana](#) | [Maine](#) | [Maryland](#) | [Massachusetts](#) | [Michigan](#) | [Minnesota](#) | [Mississippi](#) | [Missouri](#) | [Montana](#) | [Nebraska](#) | [Nevada](#) | [New Hampshire](#) | [New Jersey](#) | [New Mexico](#) | [New York](#) | [North Carolina](#) | [North Dakota](#) | [Ohio](#) | [Oklahoma](#) | [Oregon](#) | [Pennsylvania](#) | [Rhode Island](#) | [South Carolina](#) | [South Dakota](#) | [Tennessee](#) | [Texas](#) | [Utah](#) | [Virginia](#) | [Vermont](#) | [Washington](#) | [Wisconsin](#) | [West Virginia](#) | [Wyoming](#)

Seventeen Thousand Fans Can't Be Wrong



Last month, Congress.org added its 17,000th fan on Facebook.

Our community of users gets the latest news on Congress and national activism every time they log in to the world's most popular social networking site.

They can also write Members of Congress on the issue of the week through our new "Tell Congress" feature — in less than a minute.

So what are you waiting for? Go to [facebook.com/congressorg](https://www.facebook.com/congressorg) and click the "Like" button" today!

Sign Up for Political Wire by E-mail!



Taegan Goddard's Political Wire tracks the latest news and buzz coming from campaign war rooms, press gaggles and the halls of government.

Updated around the clock, it's the best way to keep track of what's going on in the political world. PC Magazine named Political Wire one of the 20 best political web sites.

[Sign up to receive a free daily e-mail from Political Wire.](#)

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If you know anyone who might be interested in this newsletter, please forward this email or [subscribe here](#).

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Washington, DC 20001

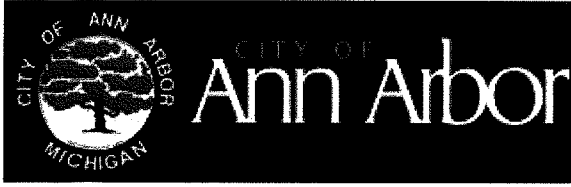
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Buonodono, Nickolas

From: City of Ann Arbor, MI [annarbor@service.govdelivery.com]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 9:02 PM
To: Briere, Sabra
Subject: Lower Chimney & Reconfigure roof line to allow for dormer - HDC - 448 S FIRST ST



Lower Chimney & Reconfigure roof line to allow for dormer - HDC - 448 S FIRST ST
Sun, 03 Apr 2011 19:00:00 -0500

(4/4/2011 8:28 PM MG1) A. Lower chimney on north side of home. B. Reconfigure roof and siding of southwest quadrant of home to add living space (ie. add a dormer). The new roof will be a shed roof as shown in drawings. Skylights will also be added to the northwest quadrant of the roof. Materials will match existing home. New windows to match existing bedrooms.

Update your subscriptions, modify your password or e-mail address, or stop subscriptions at any time on your [Subscriber Preferences Page](#). You will need to use your e-mail address to log in. If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please contact support@govdelivery.com.

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Buonodono, Nickolas

From: City of Ann Arbor, MI [annarbor@service.govdelivery.com]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 9:02 PM
To: Briere, Sabra
Subject: Expansion of the existing rooftop balcony - HDC - 315 SECOND ST 514



Expansion of the existing rooftop balcony - HDC - 315 SECOND ST 514

Sun, 03 Apr 2011 19:00:00 -0500

(4/4/2011 8:38 PM MG1) The expansion would be to an area of the building roof that is not currently in use and is also not visible from any streey level vantage point.

Update your subscriptions, modify your password or e-mail address, or stop subscriptions at any time on your [Subscriber Preferences Page](#). You will need to use your e-mail address to log in. If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please contact support@govdelivery.com.

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GovDelivery, Inc. sending on behalf of City of Ann Arbor, MI · 100 N. Fifth Avenue · Ann Arbor MI 48104 · 734-994-2700

Buonodono, Nickolas

From: Taylor, Christopher (Council)
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 9:36 PM
To: *City Council Members (All)
Subject: FW: Parcel-by-Parcel Plan
Attachments: A2C2-DDA Development Process Resolution (4-apr-2011).doc; City Parcels in DDA 4-4-11.pdf

I know we're on break, but please see attached, which was submitted earlier in redline form.

Christopher Taylor

Councilmember (Third Ward)
Mobile: 734-604-8770
Work: 734-213-3605
Home: 734-213-6223
ctaylor@a2gov.org

From: Taylor, Christopher (Council)
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 3:04 PM
To: Dempkowski, Angela A
Cc: Bowden (King), Anissa; Fraser, Roger; Hieftje, John; Hohnke, Carsten; Smith, Sandi; Teall, Margie; Rampson, Wendy; Barber, Janet (Barth); Bahl, Sumedh
Subject: Parcel-by-Parcel Plan

Angela,

I understand you are Jackie today. Can you please include these in the packet w/Parcel-by-Parcel plan. I intend to seek modification of the held-over resolution to conform with these changes by friendly amendment.

Thanks!

Christopher

Christopher Taylor
Member, Ann Arbor City Council (Third Ward)
734-506-8770 (m)
734-213-3605 (w)
734-213-6223 (h)

Title

Resolution Authorizing that the Ann Arbor DDA Develop an Implementation Plan to Redevelop Downtown City-Owned Parcels

Memorandum

Ann Arbor City Council authorized the establishment of the Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority in 1982 with the mission to undertake public improvements that have the greatest impact in strengthening the downtown area and attracting new private investments. The DDA accomplished a great deal, and in 2003 Ann Arbor City Council authorized an amendment to the DDA Development Plan that extended the DDA's TIF capture until 2033 and set forward new strategies to accomplish the DDA's mission. One of these key strategies is the pursuit of development partnerships in which the DDA set forward that it would strive to encourage downtown development that realizes community goals and objectives.

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Body

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- Advisory Committee provides DDA with its recommendation
- DDA reviews and considers Advisory Committee recommendation
- Forward approved recommendation to City Council
- City Council reviews/decides upon DDA proposal recommendation
- DDA consultant assists DDA as DDA and City Staff negotiate purchase and other project details
- City Council reviews and approves agreements to purchase and redevelop Parcel
- City Council reviews and approves the Parcel site plan and site plan development agreement, after receiving a recommendation from the City Planning Commission
- Project constructed

Repeat with other Parcels

RESOLVED, that for items above requiring City Council approval, the City Administrator shall place such items on the agenda of City Council no later than thirty (30) days after the City Administrator's receipt thereof. In the event that such item is not voted upon within thirty (30) days of being placed upon the agenda, then at each subsequent meeting of the City Council where the item does not appear on the agenda, the City Administrator during Communications from the City Administrator shall provide a status report as to reasons for the item's failure to appear on the agenda.

RESOLVED, that in light of the DDA's expenditures of Phase IV monies in reliance upon City Council's approval of the Parcel-by-Parcel Plan, any resulting RFP, and the DDA-proposal recommendation, if City Council declines to approve a Parcel site plan for any reason other

than the site plan not complying with applicable zoning regulations, then the City of Ann Arbor shall reimburse the DDA for all direct DDA Phase IV costs related to such Parcel (“Parcel Costs”), provided that the DDA has provided to the City an accounting of DDA Parcel Costs incurred to date (and its estimate for future Parcel Costs) at each instance at which DDA requests Phase IV approval with respect to such Parcel.

* * *

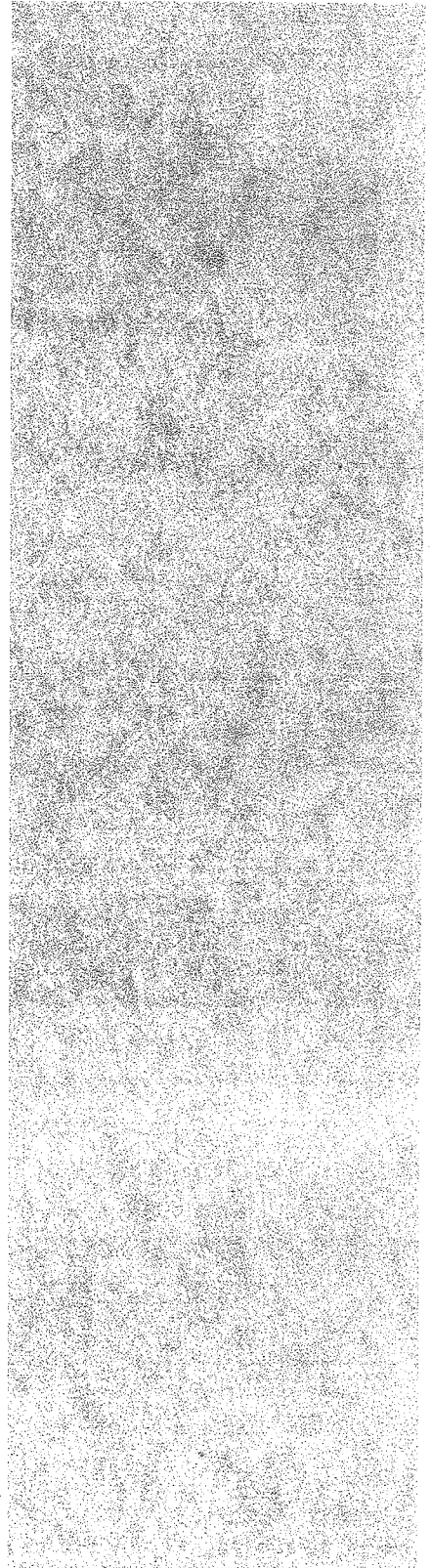


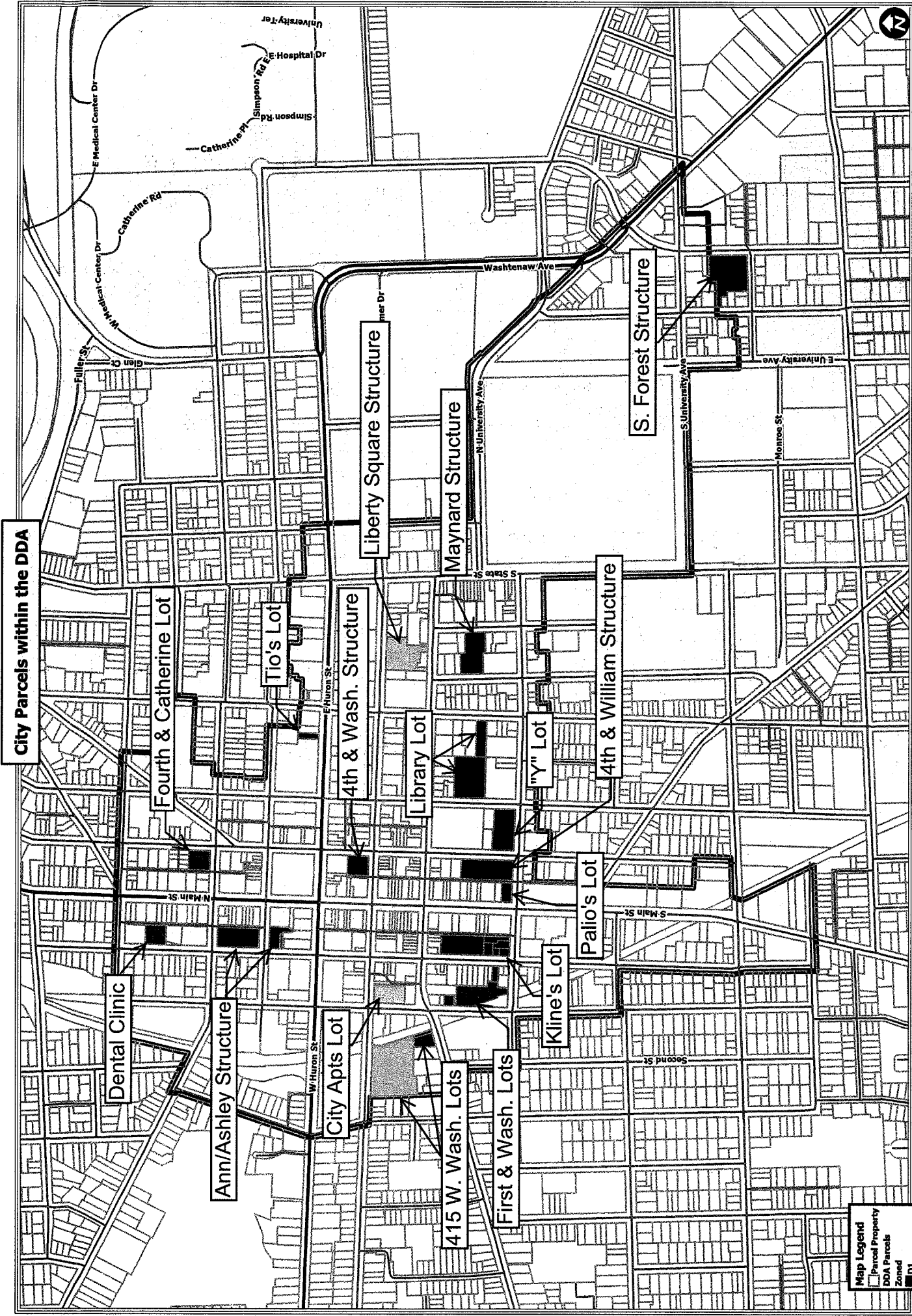
Exhibit A

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[City Owned Parcels]

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City Parcels within the DDA

Map Legend

[Symbol]	Parcel Property
[Symbol]	DDA Parcels
[Symbol]	Zoned
[Symbol]	D1
[Symbol]	D2
[Symbol]	PL
[Symbol]	PUD
[Symbol]	DDA Boundary



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 Map Created: 4/2021

Buonodono, Nickolas

From: Portside Moderator [moderator@PORTSIDE.ORG]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 10:28 PM
To: PORTSIDE@LISTS.PORTSIDE.ORG
Subject: The Martin Luther King Legacy and the Global Economic Crisis

The Martin Luther King Legacy and the Global Economic Crisis: Can One Influence the Other?

by Danny Schechter

Published on Monday, April 4, 2011 by CommonDreams.org
<http://www.commondreams.org/view/2011/04/04-2>

Before he went over that mountain top in that week in an April like this one back in 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. said he had already seen the other side, as he spent his last days on earth fighting for the garbage men of Memphis while speaking out about the twin evils of war and poverty.

A few days ago, a great black American essayist and historian, Manning Marable, died suddenly just before his new and definitive book on Malcolm X came out showing how America's best known Muslim martyr had moved from a focus on the domestic politics of racial confrontation to the international politics of global revolution.

(Among his findings: The US government spied on Malcolm as he globe-trotted linking up with like-minded activists. This was offered up as a new revelation. I had to smile since I did an investigative report for Ramparts Magazine in 1967 on how the CIA was trying to discredit him in Africa.)

We live in a world of constantly redrawn battle lines where new generations displace the old ones and some of yesterday's leaders move to higher levels of consciousness unlike many others like Libya's human rights abusing leader Gadaffi, along with some civil rights leaders who, years ago, secretly joined Washington's crusade against Malcolm.

Washington is now crusading against Libya. The war there was first declared a humanitarian intervention before it turned into a military intervention in a civil war and is on its way to becoming a stalemate.

Already NATO has bombed the rebels in one of those mistakes all too common in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The US has apparently decided it no longer wants to throw good money after bad--perhaps because it has finally dawned on the White House that we are running out of money. So, we are declaring victory and moving on.

Even imperial projects have to be tempered as our wars abroad turn into follies and our economic turnaround at home is also not what it has been advertised to be.

As the AFL-CIO noted while the Administration was celebrating a downtick in unemployment:

"While the official unemployment rate is 8.8 percent, it's 15.7 percent if unemployed, underemployed and those who have given up looking for work are included--more than 24 million people...

Young people and people of color continue to experience the worst jobless rates which have remained high, with

24.5 percent of teenagers out of work and 15.5 percent of black workers and 11.3 percent of Hispanics jobless.

Some 7.9 percent of white workers are jobless, as are 7.1 percent of Asian workers."

At the same time, better paid government jobs are being chopped leaving workers in lower wage private sector jobs that pay less money for more work. Many of those workers say their salaries don't cover their expenses.

Foreclosures are up even as bank profits (and CEO salaries) soar.

We are just learning the full extent of the Federal Reserve Bank's loans to banks the world over, while a promised crackdown on fraud has yet to come. A bailout costing trillions was kept secret until a reporter's lawsuit just forced a disclosure.

Still hidden is the role government plays in manipulating markets or pumping them up through the Plunge Protection Team, a shadowy agency I discuss in more detail in my book, *The Crime of Our Time* (Disinfo Books.)

Wall Street's "swinging dicks," as they are called, are back in the saddle. They have neutered financial reform and seem to have silenced the President who seems to want to cheer up the people rather than inform them about what's really going on as food and gas prices rise while inflation begins to rear its ugly head.

Veteran investor Jim Rogers told the Daily Bell: "It's already happening; prices are going higher. Now the blame game starts and the government will blame it on drought or crop failure or whatever. Politicians will do and say anything to avoid explaining that inflation is a monetary problem. Their reactions are always the same and it's always astonishing to me. As President Ford said, 'there is no problem' - and even if there is, it's not his problem. Well there are always people who are in denial; then the problem gets worse not better."

Wall Street's Hedge Funds are having a field day. The New York Times reports that wealth among execs in that part of the financial labyrinth is so concentrated that 25 Hedge Fund managers "pocketed a total of \$22.07 billion...At \$50,000 a year, it would take the salaries of 441,000 Americans to match the sum."

Who is speaking out against this? Not the Republicans for sure. Not many Democrats either. Not even the President or his 'more wealth for the wealthy' booster Treasury chief Tim Geithner.

Wall Street is stronger than ever. Its "reforms" are proving to be a joke. No big execs who profited from pervasive mortgage fraud have gone to jail as prosecutions dwindle.

There has been a respite in Wisconsin as a State Judge shoots down the GOP's attempt to outlaw collective bargaining but similar laws have passed in Ohio and New Hampshire.

In a globalized world, we are all interdependent. What happens to one part of this web affects us all. That's why we have to pay attention to the falling economic dominoes in Europe where Portugal may be next to go with Spain and Ireland not far behind. So far protests by hundreds of thousands in Britain have not dented much less changed the government's cutbacks in the name of austerity.

Serious critics may have the facts on their side but are still being marginalized. They are considered ranters, not reasonable. Journalist Chris Hedges was honored when he wrote for the New York Times. When he left, and was finally able to speak his own mind, he began challenging the false promises of globalization.

He writes, "The refusal by all of our liberal institutions, including the press, universities, labor and the Democratic Party, to challenge the utopian assumptions that the marketplace should determine human behavior permits corporations and investment firms to continue their assault, including speculating on commodities to drive up food prices. It permits coal, oil and natural gas corporations to stymie alternative energy and emit deadly levels of greenhouse gases. It permits agribusinesses to divert corn and soybeans to ethanol production and crush systems of local, sustainable agriculture. '

It permits the war industry to drain half of all state expenditures, generate trillions in deficits, and profit from conflicts in the Middle East we have no chance of winning. It permits corporations to evade the most basic controls and regulations to cement into place a global neo-feudalism. The last people who should be in charge of our food supply or our social and political life, not to mention the welfare of sick children, are corporate capitalists and Wall Street speculators."

So, once again, a gauntlet has been thrown down, but so far activists, advocates, unions and even progressive journalists stay submerged in fighting partisan wars and are not taking on the deeper fight for economic justice.

If we want to walk in the footsteps of Dr King, we need to broaden our understanding of the scale of what needs changing and target the banksters on Wall Street as well as Republican pols that do their bidding. Danny Schechter

Mediachannel's News Dissector Danny Schechter investigates the origins of the economic crisis in his book *Plunder: Investigating Our Economic Calamity and the Subprime Scandal* (Cosimo Books via Amazon).

Comments to dissector@mediachannel.org

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From: Portside Moderator [moderator@PORTSIDE.ORG]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 10:28 PM
To: PORTSIDE@LISTS.PORTSIDE.ORG
Subject: The Great Wells of Manning Marable

The Great Wells of Manning Marable

Melissa Harris-Perry

April 3, 2011

Published on The Nation (<http://www.thenation.com>)

<http://www.thenation.com/blog/159661/great-wells-manning-marable>

We have suffered a great loss in the passing of Professor Manning Marable. As my Nation colleague John Nichols wrote yesterday [1], the coming weeks will be filled with tributes to Manning's life and work. He was, as John says, "one of America's truest public intellectuals."

Manning was an unflinching and breathtakingly prolific scholar whose commitments to racial, economic, gender, and international justice were unparalleled. In decades of weekly columns, hundreds of academic journal articles and a dozen books, Manning has already written his own legacy. But despite the fact that we all have "Manning Marable shelves" in our personal libraries, there are two generations of African-American scholars who will remember him as much for the mentor he was to us as for the research legacy he leaves.

It is still a surprisingly lonely endeavor to be an African-American academic pursuing research on black life. Despite the outward appearance of successful careers, many black social scientists, historians and humanists wage a daily battle for relevance and respect in our departments and on our campuses. The fight begins in graduate school and does not seem to abate even after we have published articles, written books, achieved tenure or garnered professional praise.

In our loneliness and struggle many of us reach out for mentors. It is relatively easy to find senior scholars who will offer encouraging words, well-rehearsed advice and general praise. But Manning managed to do so much more than that. To be a student or a junior faculty member in Manning's office was to wait for the smile.

He would listen intently and seriously as you told him about the project you envisioned, the finding you made or a conclusion you'd drawn. As you spoke, his face was a mask of stillness covering a never-resting intellect just below the surface. It was more than a little intimidating to present an idea to Manning. But if he liked what you were up to or thought you had uncovered a promising direction then his face would crack into a broad and compelling smile that made the whole nerve-wracking experience worth it. If you got the smile then you knew you could keep going.

This was only the most surface way that Manning mentored us. As a student of politics and history, he understood that young race scholars faced steep structural barriers and entrenched academic practices that no amount of well-intentioned professional cheerleading could erase. Instead of just telling us we could do it, Manning helped make "doing it" possible.

As founding director of Columbia University's Institute for Research in African-American Studies, Manning created a place where students could stretch their intellect in

unconventional ways. He encouraged students to study black life using methods and asking questions that typical disciplinary boundaries so often limit and discourage in our work. His institute was a gathering place for people from all over the world who insisted on critical connections between theory and practice.

Through publication of his quarterly journal, *Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture and Society* [2], Manning gave many race scholars their first academic publications. Those early publications were decisive in the careers of many of the best professors in the academy today. Through his regular column "Along the Color Line" Manning gave us permission to and a model for reaching beyond the walls of the academy. He reminded us that our work was about something other than our own profession and that we owed debts to the communities who were the source material of our academic writing.

Manning did more than encourage us. He made a way for us. He cleared brush. He extended his protections. He shared his resources with uncompromising generosity. And he did all of this without needing to turn us into his personal collection. He very rarely took credit for our successes, despite his important role in all that we were able to do.

Manning Marable's 2002 book is titled *The Great Wells of American Democracy*. It is a biting and critical text that challenges simplistic heroic narratives of American history, but simultaneously retains profound optimism about the inherent possibilities of the American experiment. When I think of Manning himself it is as a great well--possessing reserves of energy, intellect and commitment I have never before witnessed.

I have a recurring, Descartes-inspired, dualist fantasy. I imagine how much I could accomplish if I were not hindered by the realities of being embodied. I have so many ideas and intentions. I see so many paths and possibilities. I want to explore so many connections and paths. Think of how much I could accomplish if I were only mind and will unfettered by eyes that grow wearing of reading, hands that become exhausted from typing, a back that aches from sitting at the desk and a body that must eat and rest.

To those of us he mentored, it seemed like Manning had achieved this feat. I wondered if he had somehow bent the rules of the physical world in order to accomplish an unthinkable amount of work in such short periods. He felt like pure energy. But our dearest Manning was in a body. He was in a body that was broken and struggling. It turns out that our beloved mentor was mortal after all. I cannot believe that he is gone. I cannot even believe it is possible that he could be gone.

That we will have his long-anticipated, great and final work [3] even as he leaves us is so classically, tragically appropriate. Manning would never leave us without one more contribution, one more trail blazed, one more bar raised, one more possibility realized, one last drink from the great well of himself.

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Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 10:27 PM
To: PORTSIDE@LISTS.PORTSIDE.ORG
Subject: Workers' Rights are Under Threat Across the World

Workers' Rights are Under Threat Across the World

In UK, US and Europe, the depletion of collective bargaining threatens workers' economic security and their human rights

By Keith Ewing Guardian (UK) April 4, 2011

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/apr/04/workers-rights-collective-bargaining>

Dr Martin Luther King was assassinated in Memphis on this day in 1968. He was there to support striking sanitation workers, fighting for the right to have their union recognised by their employer; fighting for the right to collective bargaining.

Today is also a day of international solidarity with the public service workers of Wisconsin, whose right to bargain collectively has been stripped away by legislation sponsored by state governor Scott Walker, a man who has led the great state of Wisconsin to pariah status.

But as we stand in solidarity with brothers and sisters in Wisconsin, we do so in the knowledge that theirs is not a struggle confined to a single US state. Nor - as the neoliberal strategy of Governor Walker stretches to other states - is it a uniquely US problem. It is a global problem, demanding a global response.

European workers too are seeing the erosion of hard-won collective bargaining rights, also as a result of the greed of the bankers, who have emerged from the financial crisis unscathed. In the UK the erosion of bargaining rights is taking place by stealth. Although collective bargaining machinery still exists in local government for example, friends in public service unions tell me it is a long time since they had a collective agreement on pay or on other terms and conditions of employment.

Public sector unions are finding themselves on the sharp end of "section 188 notices", in which employers issue notices of mass dismissal (of thousands of employees at a time), and offer to re-employ the workers concerned on inferior terms. These new terms are imposed without the agreement of the trade union or the workers, who have no choice but to accept. Sometimes it involves a repudiation of a collective agreement, which the union is powerless to defend.

Collective agreements in this country are not legally binding, and the only sanction open to workers and their unions - industrial action - is so fraught with legal dangers as to often be beyond use.

All this is being done under cover of an EU directive that was designed to protect workers facing redundancy by requiring the employer to give as much advance notice as possible and to consult with the union to find alternatives, to reduce numbers to be made redundant, and to ameliorate the consequences.

Protective legislation is used as a licence by employers to undermine collective agreements and terms and conditions of employment.

But it is not only in the UK where the bankers are calling the shots. In Greece, workers and trade unions have been told by the European Commission that their labour laws are to be made

more flexible, which means their collective agreements must become more decentralised, which means in turn that fewer people are to be protected by collective bargaining.

This marks a global assault on the human rights of workers everywhere. Claims about violations of human rights are not to be made lightly, for fear of devaluing a fragile currency. But workers' rights are human rights, and the right to bargain collectively is recognised by international law as an essential aspect of the right to freedom of association.

At international level the right to bargain collectively is expressly recognised by the two core conventions of the ILO, the UN agency of which 183 countries are members, all bound by a constitutional principle to promote freedom of association. Conventions fleshing out that principle impose duties on member states, which include a duty to promote collective bargaining.

That principle is embedded not only in international standards, but in regional treaties as well, including the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights of 2000. But although there is now recognition at EU level of the right to bargain collectively, the European Commission is also promoting a "competitiveness pact" designed to reduce employment conditions and eliminate collective bargaining.

These attacks at EU level - undermining the post-80s Social Europe settlement - have attracted little publicity, though they have been strongly condemned. Even the traditionally mild-mannered and consensual ETUC has adopted an uncharacteristically strident position, condemning the EU "competitiveness pact" as an "attack on collective bargaining" leading Europe to a "dead end".

On the day before he died on 4 April 1968, Dr King addressed the sanitation workers of Memphis and famously said:

"You are demanding that this city will respect the dignity of labour. So often we overlook the work and the significance of those who are not in professional jobs, of those who are not in the so-called big jobs. But let me say to you tonight that whenever you are engaged in work that serves humanity and is for the building of humanity, it has dignity and it has worth."

Dr King's vision of the dignity and worth of labour can only be realised by the very architecture that governments throughout the world now seem determined to destroy. In this country, our forebears saw clearly the importance of trade unions, and the role of collective bargaining as a means of raising wages, equalising incomes, stimulating demand, creating jobs and reducing unemployment.

But as Dr King realised, the case for collective bargaining is not simply an economic one. It is about social justice. It is about repudiating the idea that labour is a commodity, competing in a Darwinian "labour market". Above all, it is about ensuring that everyone is treated with equal respect, and paid a fair day's wage for a fair day's work.

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Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 10:27 PM
To: PORTSIDE@LISTS.PORTSIDE.ORG
Subject: Deportation Frustration

Deportation Frustration

Obama talks reform as Homeland Security boots more and more

By Chung-Wha Hong Thursday, March 31, 2011

Earlier this month, I was part of a small delegation of immigration advocates and labor leaders who met with Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano. During the meeting, we reiterated our call for President Obama to move forward on some immigration reform measures, with or without Congress, and raised our concerns over the administration's record on immigration to date.

These are concerns we have voiced repeatedly and with increasing urgency over the past two years, including in direct meetings with the president. Given the president's oft-repeated support for immigration reform and for bringing hardworking immigrants out of the shadows, how can he explain his record?

Since the president took office, there have been a record number of deportations -- nearly 800,000 in his first two years. The annual number of deportations under the Obama administration surpasses that of the Bush administration. These deportations have largely targeted the hardworking immigrants and family members who the president has repeatedly stated should be allowed the opportunity to legalize their status.

The Obama administration has also been marked by a rapid expansion of programs that enlist local law enforcement offices in immigration enforcement. This has occurred despite widespread opposition by local law agencies that say such programs undermine their ability to protect public safety, compromise police-community relations and impose significant costs on localities.

Such programs have also given rise to an unacceptable number of racial profiling and civil rights violations.

The administration has put forth unfounded claims that those programs -- 287G agreements and Secure Communities, specifically -- target serious criminals for deportation. But at least a quarter to a half of those deported under such programs (depending on the jurisdiction) have no criminal records whatsoever or only minor infractions such as traffic violations.

And, while it's true that Congress has not delivered on immigration reform, as we told Napolitano, there are a number of things the president can do to begin to repair the system.

He could, for instance, impose a moratorium on 287G and Secure Communities programs, to allow time for an independent assessment of their effectiveness, costs and impact on public safety and immigrants' civil rights and liberties.

Obama could exercise discretion and not deport DREAM-eligible youth. The DREAM Act, passed by the House but killed in the Senate in December, would have offered a path to citizenship for young undocumented people who came here as children, if they met certain criteria.

The president has asserted that the bill's demise was perhaps his "greatest disappointment" and that he thinks "about those kids" and wants "to do right by them." This recommendation offers him the opportunity to do just that.

The frustration we expressed arose from the cumulative impact of more than two years of enormous hardship, pain and fear in immigrant communities. Over the last two years, each day has seen another 1,100 people deported and their families, friends and communities torn apart.

In a stunning abdication of responsibility, the secretary's response to all this was: It's Congress' fault, and we are looking into designing oversight of problematic programs like Secure Communities. As for the DREAM kids, let them seek individual relief, one by one, through private bills. What about the anger she sees when she goes to speak to immigrant communities? It's the fault of us advocates, because we're not informing the communities about the great progress that Homeland Security has made on immigration.

She offered another meeting, "at the secretary's level," in 120 days.

I told her that the anger in immigrant communities is because the administration has not done what it can to provide relief. For example, it has granted far fewer deferred actions for deportations of DREAM kids than did the Bush administration.

It's one thing if we had come to her on day one of the Obama administration. But we came to her on day 787, and we can't spare another four months, or 132,000 deportations, for her to tell us what the administration plans to do. We asked her to get back to us in two weeks.

At a time of heated and divisive rhetoric, the president's words of support for immigration reform gave us hope. Words, after all, are meaningful. Unfortunately, as we've learned, when they're not backed up by action, they're also cheap.

Chung-Wha Hong is executive director of the New York Immigration Coalition.

Juan J. Ramirez, Executive Assistant

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To: PORTSIDE@LISTS.PORTSIDE.ORG
Subject: "I am a Man" - Video, and The "We are One" events

"I am a Man" - Video, and The "We are One" events

Monday April 4, 2011

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1. Video

I Am A Man: Dr. King & the Memphis Sanitation Strike

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBDgH435oaU>

On the 40th Anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a reminder that the civil rights leader died while supporting a struggle to form a union. Produced by American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

"Heart of racism is that a man is not a man."

===

2.

We Are One: Remembering Martin Luther King's Struggle for Labor Rights

Monday 4 April 2011

by: Michael Honey , History News Network [3]

Martin Luther King Jr. on the march to Montgomery, 1965. (Photo: Eliel [4]) Do you like this? Click here to signup for free email updates from Truthout.

"It is a crime for people to live in this rich nation and receive starvation wages. And I need not remind you this is our plight as a people all over America." - Martin Luther King in Memphis, March 18, 1968

April 4 marks forty-three years since an assassin killed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Memphis. That date has special meaning this year.

"We Are One" events all over the U.S. are fighting for collective bargaining rights, and more broadly, a reversal of the current priorities and direction of events. The connection of today's union rights battle to King's legacy is clear. The strike of Memphis sanitation workers revolved around Mayor Henry Loeb's refusal to grant collective bargaining rights and union dues collection.

These are the same rights that Governor Scott Walker just took away from public employees in Wisconsin.

Like Loeb, he knows this is a good way to kill a union.

Who would choose to belong to and pay dues to a union that cannot represent them at the bargaining table?

People across the country today are protesting the Republican attempts to utterly destroy the unions.

They are virtually the only group that still has the power to stand up against the power of organized money.

King supported unions from his earliest college days and called them the "first anti-poverty program."

Unions provided King with staunch allies and provided his greatest financial support in the Montgomery bus boycott, the Birmingham movement, the March on Washington, and other battles.

Mainly because of King's sacrifice, the sanitation workers in Memphis won their strike. Their union, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), now represents millions of government workers, including many African Americans workers in the District of Columbia. Unionists regard King as an honorary member and practically a founder of AFSCME.

That's exactly the union Republicans want to kill.

AFSCME and a few other large unions provide the only major counter weight to corporate money in elections.

Kill the unions, and you cripple the Democrats and the ability of working-class folks to resist the political power of organized money.

While the Arab world struggles in pro-democracy movements, we in the U.S. are struggling to keep the union rights that King and others died to achieve.

Unions are an endangered species, as they were in Memphis before King came to that city. Those of us rallying today feel we are making King's legacy real in our own lives. And we feel Americans need to reframe their understanding of King and his legacy.

Many think of King as purely a civil rights leader. In addition, we need to recognize his fierce advocacy of labor rights and economic justice. A child of the depression, King always expressed solidarity with poor people. They included his neighbors, his parishioners, and his family. His father fled sharecropping and arrived in Atlanta with only a few dollars; his grandparents had worked hard laboring jobs; three of his great-grand parents were slaves.

King was not only a leader for civil rights, which he called "phase one" of the freedom movement. "We Are One" demonstrations on April 4 remember King's launch of "phase two," his Poor People's Campaign demanding a shift in government priorities from warfare and tax cuts for the rich to creating jobs and enhancing health care, housing and education.

King had been on this path for a long time, speaking at union meetings all over the country. He told the Illinois AFL-CIO in 1965, "It is a constitutional right for a man to be able to vote, but the human right to a decent house is as categorically imperative and morally absolute as was that constitutional right. It is not a constitutional right that men [and women] have jobs, but it is a human right."

King also warned the AFL-CIO at its national convention in 1961 that an alliance of business and right wing politicians in the future would threaten "everything decent and fair in American life." They are doing it now.

On this April 4, we should remember King's words to the Memphis sanitation workers: "All labor has dignity...

You are going beyond purely civil rights to questions of human rights." There is no better time than the present to follow King's lead and stand up for the rights of working and poor people.

Michael Honey is editor of King's labor speeches, "All Labor Has Dignity" (Beacon) and author of "Going Down Jericho Road: The Memphis Strike: Martin Luther King's Last Campaign" (Norton).

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To: Hieftje, John
Subject: Enter now for your chance at one of 50 Chevy Trucks!

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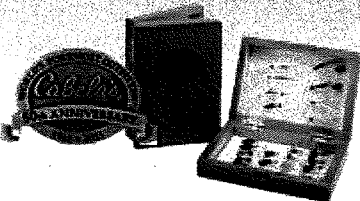
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Buonodono, Nickolas

Subject: Environmental Commission
Location: ConfRoom - Council Chambers

Start: Thu 8/25/2011 7:00 PM
End: Thu 8/25/2011 10:00 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

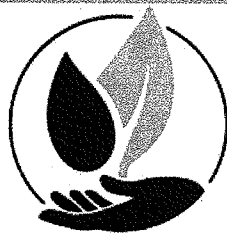
Organizer: Naud, Matthew

Buonodono, Nickolas

From: Ryan Werder - Michigan LCV Political Director [ryan@michiganlcv.org]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 10:53 PM
To: Hieftje, John
Subject: PWIR: A Ban on Offshore Wind Power in Michigan?

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Political Week in Review

The week of: March 29 - April 4

Turning Environmental Values Into Community Priorities

April 4, 2011

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Ban on Offshore Wind Power in Michigan is Proposed in House

Elections matter. Before the last election, the 101st State House District in Northwest Michigan boasted one of the most forward-thinking legislators on clean energy in the state. Today, the new representative from that district is proposing a ban on offshore wind energy in Michigan.

Other examples of electoral consequences from all levels of government in this week's *Political Week in Review*:

- A new ad is released attacking those who are attacking the Clean Air Act
- The Michigan Court of Appeals issued an important ruling, protecting Michigan waters
- A brief update on the attempts to gut the EPA in the Senate
- The President's long-term energy plan for America's future summarized in 75 words.

The Take-Your-Clean-Energy-Jobs-Elsewhere Bill

Not a week after a report was released on the 4000 wind energy jobs currently existing in Michigan – with

thousands more projected – State Representative Ray Franz introduced legislation to ban offshore wind energy in the state.

A direct quote from Representative Franz on this subject is that offshore wind is a “hazard to nature and the economy.” The four wind power companies either in or within minutes of his own district would likely disagree. Overall, Michigan has 120 wind energy-related companies, a vast majority of whom be hit hard by this kind of legislation.

For now, Representative Franz’s bill is only in committee, but you can certainly expect to hear more on this job-killing legislation in the near future from the thousands of Michiganders who would have to head out of the state to do their work if this were to go through.

Court affirms important CAFO ruling

Just as elections matter, so do decisions from the judicial branch. This week, the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled that all Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) must obtain permits before they pollute. The idea here is that their “potential to pollute” is sufficient to require a permit, rather than waiting until they actually pollute.

The importance of this relates to our state’s water and lakes, as the discharges – and you can imagine what is included in the discharges from large animal farms like this – flow into our groundwater, rivers, and potentially our drinking water. This ruling will help to ensure that proper protections for Michigan’s water are in place from day one.

New ad opposing Clean Air Act attacks goes on TV

A new ad that, very explicitly, tells of the dangers that children will face if the EPA is gutted by the US House and Senate is now on the air. You can watch it here.

In the Senate, the votes on many dangerous attacks on the Clean Air act via policy riders – amendments that tack often-controversial policy decisions on unrelated spending bills – were delayed again. But the battle is not over, and even Senator Stabenow has introduced her own bad amendment that seeks to delay enforcement of the Clean Air Act.

These continued delays owe much to voters speaking to their senators. Here, again, are Senator Levin’s number and Senator Stabenow’s number. Please call them and tell them to vote “no” on all EPA policy riders.

President Obama lays out his plan for America’s energy future...

...And I try to describe it in 75 words. (Disclaimer: The original speech was just shy of 6,000 words and far more eloquent.)

“America cannot continue our reliance on foreign oil. In a decade, we will cut that reliance by a third... but we will still ‘expedite’ offshore drilling for now. We’ll use natural gas, too, but need to extract it safely. Cars need to be more efficient (and need to be made here), especially electric vehicles. We need more renewable energy, because it’s good and other countries are consistently beating us at it. Let’s get to it.”

There are real implications here for Michigan, even tucked into this condensed version. Fracking, or deep horizontal drilling for gas or oil, continues to expand in Michigan without sufficient regulations in place to conduct it safely; electric vehicles and renewable energy are some of the most prominent job creators in the state right now; and unless Michigan acts now, other states will beat us in the race to catch up to those other nations.

Let us, indeed, get to it (minus the offshore drilling, of course).

I Intil next week

Ryan J. Werder



Ryan Werder

Political Director, Michigan LCV

Email: ryan@michiganlcv.org

Twitter: [@rjwerder](https://twitter.com/rjwerder)

P.S. With everything going on in regarding climate defense, please be sure to follow Michigan LCV on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for instant updates on how you can best help out in this crucial fight!

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