

Michigan
Council 25

AFSCME

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American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

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ALERT

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Here's the Truth About the Detroit Budget Deficit!

If we all rely on Mayor Bing and the commercial news media for our information, we might believe that Detroit's budget woes are the fault of the city employees. That is nothing like the truth, because there's a lot more to the story :

- The HRMS and DRMS payroll system has cost a fortune in computers and equipment, development and support.
- Mayor Bing's top people - all appointees - are still getting **bonuses**, even in this fiscal crisis!
- There are still city employees - mayoral appointees, for example - who receive free vehicles, stipends and/or free gas, cell phones, insurance, and repairs.
- The city continues to contract out services and projects. Contractors bid low, but end up raising the cost (we've all heard of "cost overruns"), and the taxpayers and budget suffer.
- Mayor Bing seems to be fond of saying there are "too many city employees." The fact is that Detroit has more city departments than most cities, and provides more services.
- If there are layoffs of city employees, city services will suffer. There will be cutbacks in:
 - ◆ Bus service
 - ◆ Trash Collection

- ◆ Immunization Clinics
- ◆ Unemployment Services
- ◆ Weatherization and Utility Services
- ◆ Home Repair Grants
- ◆ Commodities
- ◆ Street Lighting
- ◆ Health Inspections
- ◆ Street and Sidewalk Repair
- ◆ Headstart Programs

Mayor Bing is lucky. He's a retired professional athlete and successful businessman. He doesn't care if those city services suffer. He doesn't rely on public services; he can afford to pay extra for the services he wants or needs.

The rest of us are not so lucky. We depend on public services. We don't have a chauffeur-driven limo - we ride the bus to work. We know what happens if the trash isn't picked up, or the street lights are out, and it isn't good for our neighborhoods.

We're city employees. We need our jobs, that's true. We have families to support. Our children go to school with your children. We shop in the same stores, worship in the same churches, and live in the same city you do. We pay taxes here, too.

The city needs us. Look at those services listed above, and compare that to providing cars and cell phones to mayoral appointees. Our city needs the services!