

SPEECH BY DETROIT PEOPLE'S TASK FORCE

FRIDAY JUNE 17, 2011

We come here today on the authority of a higher power than any judge of this Court to tell the world the truth of the shameless misdeeds of the Detroit Police and the Wayne County Prosecutor. And we stand on the shoulders of giants like Dr. King, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass and Che Guevara and draw from them the courage to confront this evil and condemn the dirty deals of the Wayne County Prosecutor and Detroit Police, each of whom have committed a holocaust of condemning innocent people to prison.

We come not with pictures of Obama – but with visions of true revolutionary heroes like King, Tubman, Sojourner Truth, and Frederick Douglass – all of whom fought for the rights of all people to be treated equally under law.

What a feeling for us to be standing not far from the spot where more than 150 years ago, Detroit served as a beacon of hope for freed slaves on the Underground Railroad. It is fitting today to use that metaphor in calling for freedom of a different kind of slave; a slave given to the State in violation of due process of law.

Here today we stand at the Crossroads of Justice and Righteousness, for we are guided by an almighty hand to stand here and condemn the Wayne County Prosecutor and the Detroit Police for their enormous crimes.

For three long years since the closure of the Detroit Crime Lab, we have waited patiently and held on to hope that they would come clean and finally do justice and vindicate the rights of those who were wrongfully convicted of crimes they did not commit. Instead, we got three years' worth delays, lies on top of more lies; smoke bombs after smoke bombs, and excuses after excuses. Enough is enough.

And we are inspired by the words of Frederick Douglas who encouraged us, "I prayed for twenty years with no answer, until I prayed with my feet." We are going to pray with our feet; march like the Egyptians and demand an end to this injustice.

So, today, we stand in the shoes of our loved ones to tell the world what the prosecutor and the Detroit Police have concealed for three years. We speak for those who cannot speak for themselves due to a campaign of silence, political treachery and deceit. And we will not be silenced!

We stand here in the shadows of the Hall of Justice to advance the letter and spirit of the Bill of Rights and remind those in whom we place our trust that betrayal is a crime; dishonesty and wickedness by those at the highest levels of government who rob people of their inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is a far greater crime than a petty lie about sex and texts that cost this city over \$1 million to prosecute.

And each time this prosecutor toots her horn at prosecuting Kwame, let us remind her that there is another victim waiting for justice. Seven year old Aiyana Stanley-Jones, killed in her sleep by a cop with a bad attitude – Officer Weekley and his thugs on the

raid team who wanted to show who's boss! They killed a little girl and rushed to lie about it all!

And here today, a year later and counting, this prosecutor is deliberately delaying issuing any charges even after the Michigan State Police issued a sealed warrant recommendation months ago. She says she has to conduct an investigation into the MSP's investigation. Every time Kym Worthy uses the word "investigation," it's nothing more than a code word to delay justice. I suppose you can say Kym Worthy loaded the gun Weekley used to kill Aiyana!

She talks about the need to investigate something the MSP already investigated. Investigation on top of investigation. Come clean, Kym Worthy, and stop your crimes! Give us Officer Weekley!

Let's remind Kym Worthy, too, of the thousands of innocent people she sent to prison based on tainted and faulty evidence. What a crime fighter! You don't fight crime by sending innocent people to prison.

For sure, they who are corrupt have committed a tremendous dishonor to the people, are the greatest threat to our freedoms, and have declared war on liberty. Indeed, when government descends into total tyranny and deprives people of their right to due process and a fair trial, freedom is on the throes of extinction.

Three years ago, Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy – in conjunction with the city officials – announced an immediate closure of the Detroit Crime Lab after the Michigan State Police audit found a 10% error rate in a random audit of more than 200 ballistics cases. Since that time, the prosecutor received to date \$2.7 million dollars to "investigate" thousands of cases going back to 2003 in which defendants' convictions were based on ballistics evidence involving the Detroit Crime Lab.

She has received illegal, unlimited funding from the City of Detroit for a forensic evidence review unit that she alone structured and stacked with assistant prosecutors ostensibly for the purpose of reviewing convictions involving ballistics evidence and, where warranted, confess error and grant new trials. And she tells us that is a fair, unbiased review – to say nothing of the fact she breached the terms of an agreement with the City when she failed to include a defense attorney and a former judge in the forensic review unit.

Kym Worthy says the review is fair because her staff are working cooperatively with SADO to review thousands of cases involving ballistics evidence. But what she doesn't tell you is that SADO is nothing more than rubber stamping her findings; SADO is being dictated by the prosecutor. She's not working cooperatively with SADO; she's bossing them around with the dictates of her own findings! Moreover, SADO has no authority to order the DPD, MSP or any other outside examiner to retest the evidence. Only Kym Worthy does. SADO has to ask her to "agree" to retest the evidence, and if she does not, which is always the case save but a few cases, end of the story – Kym Worthy has the last word. And she calls that "cooperation."

And here we are, three years and nearly \$3 million dollars later, Kym Worthy has not voluntarily confessed error in any case, let alone grant a new trial to any wrongfully-convicted defendant.

She continues to credit herself about 4 new trials she granted. But let's talk about that. She's been talking about the Unknown Four for years now. She talks as though she awarded those new trials last week! Who are these faceless four of the overzealous prosecutor? We know who they are and we also know who uncovered the errors in those cases! It surely wasn't Ms. Worthy! It was the Innocence Clinic and SADO. But she alone has not, and will not, voluntarily confess error in any case. Remember what I said. No one has received a new trial on her own volition; and that's the way she wants it.

Ask yourselves: What about the 10% error rate initially found in the MSP's audit? Those were at a minimum 20 defendants who were wrongfully convicted? Who are they and why have they not been retried to finally get a chance at due process and a fair trial?

A secret investigation to uncover the errors committed by the Detroit Police and her staff, cleanse those files and destroy the evidence. That's what her "investigation" is all about! A campaign to silence those innocent souls in prison and destroy all the evidence – all hope – that they will one day be able to prove their innocence. She is a prosecutor who has every interest, every bias reason to see to it that the errors she uncovers remain secret for all time! Because to confess error as she continues to promise but not do would mean the end of her career; it would mean both the city and the county would have to pay millions of dollars in wrongful convictions. That, ladies and gentlemen, is why they are determined to conceal their wrongdoing. They are determined to hide the truth; commit a fraud and deny justice! It is something not heard of since the Salem Witch Trials or even since the Jim Crow Era when black was presumed guilty! Well, here in Wayne County they are so presumed as well!

But it is time to challenge her because she received millions of dollars of our tax money, continues to oppress our loved ones whom she wrongfully convicted, and cause further emotional pain to innocent families! Here lies a trail of tears for her enormous crimes!

Where are the new trials now that she received over \$2 million of our tax money? It's time to start asking her the tough questions that the cowards on City Council, who awarded her \$2.7 millions of that blood money – that hush money – are too afraid to ask!

Instead of showing her sincerity by awarding new trials, Kym Worthy continues to play opossum, play stupid, and weave fine talking points together to make a beautiful speech about justice. She, however, has no authority -- no standing -- to counsel us about justice when her staff is run by criminals whose crimes she defended to the very end!

Karen Plants isn't the only one ethically bankrupt up there! Christine Kowal has quite a track record herself! Kym Worthy would do well to heed the admonishment of Freedom Fighter Frederick Douglass when he said, "No man can put a chain about the ankle of his fellow man without at least finding the other end fastened about his own neck."

Plants was not the first and definitely not the last, prosecutor who knowingly put on perjured testimony and falsified evidence! Attorney David Moffitt will speak of those crimes shortly.

It is par for the course in this Court with everything from concealing evidence of casings and bullets, witness statements and lab reports, to giving a nod and a wink to the destruction of evidence by Detroit Police to get a conviction by any means necessary.

Kym Worthy has no authority, no standing, to lecture us about what is right. She who allows her prosecutors to denigrate the principles of justice just as they violate the presumption of innocence! She who has only compounded those wrongs post-conviction by lying to the Detroit City Council about her desires to vindicate the rights of thousands of innocent defendants only to swindle those clowns into writing her a blank check to further corrupt these cases!

All this comes at a time when a financially-strapped city is threatening to lay off city workers and cut services as a means to control its deficit, by the way. They have \$3 million to give a county prosecutor to investigate cases that the federal government would have done free of charge! How's that for fiscal responsibility, City Council! \$3 million on top of millions she already received to prosecute the cases. \$3 million to give a county prosecutor who should not be meddling with the cases her staff prosecuted in the first place! \$3 million of illegal funding in violation of state law that specifically says she is not to receive additional funding for additional work. \$3 million to bolster the prosecutor's arsenal to further corrupt the convictions while telling the indigent defendant sitting in prison there is no money for him to hire forensics experts or defense attorneys to investigate his conviction.

And yes, the clowns on City Council bowed and gave her that money without so much as even question the conflict of interest and biasness she brings to the review process. Because they too have an interest in covering up the city's wrongs in maliciously prosecuting these defendants!

It is political incest, ladies and gentlemen! By the highest levels of government to pay the prosecutor to silence the innocent!

It is political incest at its worst from the prosecutor's office, Detroit City Council to the Chief of Police, her neighbor right next door, who played stupid a few weeks ago when yet more scandals about the lab surfaced in the media and treated us like sheep and insulted our intelligence by claiming that the *Free Press* had it all wrong when it reported that it found criminal evidence left unsecured inside the crime lab! We saw the evidence bags; we saw the vials; we saw the case files; we saw the live ammunition!

Godbee tells us to pay no attention to the man behind the curtain! Ignore these photos of crime scene evidence we saw in the *Free Press*; you didn't see these photos! You can't remember the unprocessed 10,000 rape kits left in the lab in late 2009, over a year after the lab's closure when we were told by the prosecutor that Detroit Police was safely

inventorying and securing the evidence offsite! “Just shut up and listen to what I say,” is Godbee’s attitude. Don’t you dare ask him to wait a minute and question the potential value all that evidence might have had in possibly proving someone’s innocence! Just shut up and listen to what I say – read the Comics Section is what Godbee wants you to do. A denial of responsibility; a cold hearted lie that no crime scene evidence was found left unsecured in the lab – all given a nod and a wink by the prosecutor.

A denial of due process years later after all of these defendants’ convictions by the highest levels of government. It stinks to high heaven.

Ten thousand rape kits, mind you, for which their Madame Prosecutor received more than \$600,000 in funding to process for which we have also not seen any results.

How many victims out there in the city today cannot get closure because Kym Worthy took the money and ran? And to the victims of justice, we say to you – you did not get justice in this Court. The killers who murdered your loved ones are still free today, all thanks to the corruptions of the Detroit Police Department and the Wayne County Prosecutor.

Back to Godbee. He says to you, “Don’t look at these pictures in the *Free Press*; listen to what I say!” You saw the photos; you saw the evidence! You can’t trust a man who at first accepted responsibility and then lied and said no evidence was left in the lab when you know there was! Who is he fooling? They treat us like we are so poor that we’re stupid! They treat us like sheep.

But let’s talk about all that abandoned evidence at the crime lab, the 10,000 rape kits, the live ammunition and the evidence bags. Time and again, since the prosecutor announced the lab’s closure in 2008, we have learned that contrary to her pledge to the Detroit City Council, she failed to follow up to see to it that the evidence was properly secured and stored to the Michigan State Police. And ever since news of the latest scandals unraveled in the media a few weeks ago, Ms. Worthy -- in her usual fashion of blame storming the DPD for failing to safeguard the evidence -- says ‘Don’t look at me! It’s not a prosecutor’s responsibility to safeguard the lab evidence!’

Don’t hand us that garbage, when it was you who professed to be investigating Detroit Police for possible corruption that led to these convictions in the first place! Stop with your smoke bombs!

Does she too think our memory span is that short? We remember her pledge to the City Council in 2009 when she stated that she was going to investigate police personnel for possible criminal charges in the event her reviews reveal criminal civil rights violations! So, why in the hell would she allow the very same police who mishandled the evidence in the first place to maintain custody and control over it today? You don’t put the bank robber at the front door of the bank and expect him to stop a bank robbery!

This blame storming is nothing more than a sinister effort to throw the scent off her staff, many of whom deliberately concealed forensics evidence that they knew would have exonerated defendants.

Oh, but she and Detroit Police weren't satisfied with simply purging the evidence and case files. In 2010, the prosecutor sneaked to the Supreme Court with a proposed rule amendment to a court rule that allows factually innocent defendants such as the crime lab defendants to seek relief from judgment provided they come forth with newly-discovered evidence. Kym Worthy asked the justices to consider a one-year limitation on any such motion in what was nothing more than a clever attempt to further obstruct justice by forever foreclosing the possibility that many wrongfully-convicted defendants whose convictions are ten, twenty or more years old would ever get a chance to prove their innocence. It would be a quick way out for her to erase all guilt from her mind of the horrors committed by her staff in sending innocent people to a virtual death sentence in prison.

All the misdeeds of Lady Macbeth. We come with the truth; the prosecutor comes with lies, excuses and smoke bombs. She offers you a drink from the well of deception; we offer you a drink from the Fountain of Truth and Justice!

Innocence is not something either Godbee or Kym Worthy were concerned about from day one when these scandals first broke in 2008. Their only concern was to conceal all the wrongdoing and further obstruct justice post-conviction for thousands of innocent defendants by purging files and destroying evidence. The criminals are on the loose in the prosecutor's office and at the crime lab! The foxes are watching the hen houses and the goons are running a house of horrors and committing a holocaust of wrongfully convicting African-American men and women, and it is happening right under your nose!

At a time when we pride our justice system as the best in the world, there should be no room for error; no tolerance for this sort of corruption. But not only were there errors that led to our innocent defendants' convictions. There were many instances where the prosecutor's staff deliberately withheld forensics evidence that would have exonerated many defendants as well – evidence of innocence that was right before their eyes, yet they proceeded to convict innocent people. This is a violation of due process; it is criminal; it is unacceptable. And now, today, Kym Worthy expects us to trust that she is going to come along and correct those wrongs? I tell you dearly, the Empress wears no clothes!

The never-ending silliness in her position goes on and on. Kym Worthy defends her position, saying there is no conflict of interest in having her staff review the case files. But there is a conflict of interest in having the prosecutor review the files her staff prosecuted to see where the errors lie and expect her to do the right thing and confess error. No one can be so naïve as to think Kym Worthy is going to discipline her staff for the many instances of prosecutorial misconduct when she opens those files and uncovers the scandals where evidence of one's innocence was deliberately concealed

from the jury! Give me a break! If you believe that, then I have a bridge in Manhattan to sell you.

Worthy is no Goddess of Justice. She's no Sojourner Truth! She is not Harriet Tubman! Instead, she is the treacherous Lady Macbeth, scheming, plotting and stealing the blood of innocents and then hiding behind her prosecutorial seal and spit short venomous press releases filled with fanciful words and her frequent talk about needing time to investigate. It is smoke and mirrors, ladies and gentlemen.

Imagine how many innocent people from Wayne County alone would be facing the death penalty based on faulty convictions! Such a result would be the Damsel of Death and Chief Godbee's wish, I'm sure! Because for them, death would finally bury the truth!

Oh, I'm sure they cannot wait for us to leave here. But let's remind them of the determination we draw from the courage of Harriet Tubman who led a different kind of freedom ride: "I would fight for my liberty so long as my strength lasted, and if the time came for me to go, the Lord would let them take me." Until then, He will be our shepherd and guide us to fight until victory.

In closing, we repeat our call to Representative John Conyers – it is time for a federal investigation for there to be any transparency. I want to assure each of you that until justice is done, we will not tire; we will not falter; and we will not surrender. We will get victory and renew the spirit of justice under the law. For I am moved by the words of a former slave:

All my life I have been called a slave;
They tells me I belongs to my master.
That may be true about my body.
But my soul remembers a time when I was free.
So when I get a chance . . . I WILL RUN.