### Root Cause Committee

### Proposal to Control our own destiny

## Need for a Proactive Solution

The Cost of Inaction is not acceptable

- Without control, who is looking out for our customer's best interests or the City's best interests
- Long Term Compliance cannot be achieved without Financial Stability

### Principles behind the RCC Proposal

- Achieve Short and Long Term Compliance
- Maintain Detroit's ultimate ownership
- Provide an ongoing and reliable revenue stream to Detroit's General Fund
- Insulate DWSD and Customers from risks of Detroit's financial situation
- Protect DWSD Assets from Bankruptcy Risk
- Improve DWSD's credit rating, thereby reducing DWSD's borrowing costs

### **RCC** Research

- In making a recommendation, the Root Cause Committee reviewed several models from other communities including:
  - DC Water
  - New York Municipal Water Authority
  - The Citizens Energy Group (Indianapolis)
  - Lansing Board of Water and Light
  - Louisville Board of Water Works

Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District

## **DWSD Due Diligence**

- In drafting the recommendation, DWSD has consulted with numerous experts and outside Counsel including:
  - Mike McGee Bond, Municipal, and Public Authority expertise
  - Ricardo Kilpatrick Bankruptcy expertise
  - Bob Franzinger & Mark Jacobs DWSD counsel on the Federal Court case
  - Attorneys for the customer communities
  - Goldman Sachs Underwriter expertise

# Why Now?

- DWSD cannot maintain compliance without financial stability. Various DWSD contractors are expressing concerns with our ability to pay, impacting compliance efforts (Dryer contract, Lime Chloride, Tellers, etc.)
- Easier to control the outcome through a stipulated order of dismissal in court than to rely on the Legislative Process

Time is not on our side

## The Proposal

- DWSD is set up as an independent public authority with the same governing board and composition as the current BOWC. [DWSDA]
- A second public authority is established called the Detroit Water Authority [DWA] to lease the existing Assets to the DWSDA
- The DWSDA pays a PILOT to the DWA, flowing directly to the City of Detroit's General Fund
- Estimated payment of \$35-\$50 million annually

#### City of Detroit

Transfers assets to DWA. Receives PILOT Payment Annually. Holds Reverter interest to all assets of DWSD.

#### DWA

Holds interim title to DWSD Assets. Leases to DWSD Authority and transmits lease payment to City of Detroit General Fund

#### DWSDA

Operates DWSD as a stand alone public authority with total autonomy for all business decisions. Makes annual PILOT lease payment to DWA

## Next Level of Detail

- Final calculation of PILOT will take some time (appraiser, Miller Buckfire, etc.), but minimum would be established at \$50 million
- Order to require Adoption of DWA and DWSDA by-laws by date certain (9 months)
- Order to require transfer of assets thereafter
- DWSDA would have 100% operational and legal autonomy
- DWSD would maintain the existing DWSD leadership team that is making progress

### City of Detroit Retains Ownership

- City transfers the land to the DWA
- DWA leases property to DWSDA by Capital Lease
- Term of Capital Lease is tied to bonded indebtedness
- City of Detroit holds a springing reverter interest in the land if:
  - DWSDA misses a payment

- DWSDA fails to operate as a public utility
- Platinum Award needed to vest reverter interest

### Detroit Appoints Rate Consultant

- Annually, the City of Detroit shall provide the name of an individual or entity to serve as a customer advocate on behalf of the Detroit Retail Customers
- DWSDA contracts with the advisor annually in accordance with Procurement Policy.
- DWSD should be arbitrator of disputes between the billing classes, not seen as a sole advocate for Detroit customers

## **Business Case for Customers**

- DWSD has received several bond rating downgrades over the past two years as a result of our connection to the City and the City's perceived risk of bankruptcy
- Solving those risks saves money on future bond transactions & refinancings
- Could equal \$50 million annually by year 10 with only a 75 basis point improvement
- Also prevents the risks for customers of future downgrades tied to Detroit's credit

## **Detroit Financial Flexibility**

- This new revenue stream would be unrestricted cash flow for the City of Detroit
- Could be monetized (Indianapolis) to provide up front cash, or could be an on-going revenue stream
- Initial dollar amount converted to % of revenues, so that annual revenue stream could increase over time.

### **Detroit Business Case**

- Maintains City Ownership
- Significant annual revenue stream to City
- Reduces Detroit's Long Term Liability by roughly 50%
  - \$6 billion debt
  - DWSD's share of OPEB and UAAL
- Can improve cost of capital for Customers
- Control our own destiny

With an EM, Council and Mayor may lose existing oversight over DWSD anyway

## Risks?

- Unanimous support needed for Stipulated order including: RCC, BOWC, Detroit, Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, State of Michigan (MDEQ, Governor, Treasurer, Attorney General), possibly EPA, EFM?
- Convince the Court that it has the Legal Authority to order this

Convince the Court that this is necessary to achieve long-term compliance

### Questions? Comments?