

Thank you for opportunity

I am Jean Vortkamp, a resident who is here because my family and friends will be impoverished by this Plan of Adjustment which is taking their property against the 5th Amendment of the Constitution. This is a plan of impoverishment, not for an adjustment of debts.

I would like to tell you about Simea. James. Simea. James. Simea. James.

Simea likes to make her play doh into different kinds of pretend food. James makes his lego people fly. They are children and they are my neighbors. I watched as the city, in the name of "restructuring" SHUT OFF their water. ^{is a 400 bill.} In the Chapter 9 bankruptcy code I must have glanced over the section that led to Kevyn Orr's decision to make water shut offs "a necessary part of Detroit's restructuring."

reconnect fee
<http://www.freep.com/article/20140627/OPINION01/306270026/detroit-water-shutoffs>

As Jones Day says its objection responses, Chapter 9 is designed to assist distressed municipalities in providing vital government services to the general public. Instead they took them away. In concentration camps, there was water. Many of the children in my neighborhood had their water cut off. Families are taking money from things like rent to pay the bill that they could not afford with our high water rates. My neighborhood is a 10 minute drive to a pumping station on a river connected to the great lakes but my ~~water~~ bill is higher than the average US water bill. Privatization usually causes water rates to double or triple. How would that make Detroit look like a more attractive place to live post-bankruptcy? Jones Day notes that by 2023 the water dept will save over 500 million which seems to be at least partly ^{taken} from taking pensioners. Why don't they just go after Chase and their partners in the \$537 million dollars in swaps which was supposed to fix our infrastructure? But instead, these people who were not elected would take the water from Simea and James.

It astounds me that in Detroit in the same period of time that myself and a group of engineers were working on an engineering program for Detroit children, Kevyn Orr was working on a plan to take their water away. There is not one person on this earth that has the right to deny even one child their human right to water. I demand that these shut-offs stop, that there is a forensic audit of the water department and all its contractors, that staffing levels be examined to see if they are adequate, that prices are lowered for all of southeastern michigan and that there be no sale of the water department or the first step toward that which is regionalization.

The Plan of Adjustment objection responses ^{notes} talk about \$450 million dollars toward addressing blight. ~~I would think this is obviously~~ but blight is caused by ^{joblessness} people not having jobs. The Detroit Future Cities plan was originally funded in part by a developer, Richard Baron, who ^{recently} bought part of the waterfront. To pretend that that has anything to do with Detroiters is a lie. Addressing blight means getting people JOBS, not mashing down houses after banks and mortgage companies like Countrywide have foreclosed on them and not taken care of them until they are looted.

This plan of adjustment has made me nostalgic for democracy and human progress. I object to the structure of every single governance structure in this plan. NONE of them give retirees and citizens representation.

On page 21 I object to the word "duly" in front of mayor and this is significant because of the VEBA selection of trustees. The mayor, of which we do not, in my opinion, have one that is duly elected, will choose 3 of the trustees. The investigation of the Detroit 2013 primary was no investigation at all, with the responsibility for it being shifted ^{around} among friends, not among officials doing their duty. Here is an example of some of the ballots with similar handwriting. Our post bankruptcy governance should simply be clean elections.

I object to the whole ^{grand bargain} DIA and funding parties deal. The plan itself mentions over and over that it is not guaranteed. ^{that} Is this "grand bargain", which is oddly named the same as taking social security away, ^{says} within the guidelines of their IRS status for the foundations? There appear to be conditions on their contributions. The way it is set up seems like it could fall apart like a house of cards at anytime and hurl retirees into poverty. ~~that make them seem not philanthropic but cash therapy~~

I implore the court and President Obama to side with the people of this country to stop this bankruptcy and investigate every step of this process, the emergency manager law and the Detroit Primary 2013 and election system. This plan sets Detroit up to fail. Detroit is not a Monopoly game. This is no opportunity Detroit – not for the impoverished children I work with, not for seniors, not for the legions of young adults with no jobs. This is an opportunity to demolish houses with Hardest Hit money to prep for developers to profit instead of using the money to help Detroiters keep their homes. It is the opportunity for a political agenda counter to the will of the people of Detroit that pushes privatization. It seems odd to me that much of what is happening to Detroit follows the agenda of the Mackinac Policy Center, the Manhattan Policy Institute and ALEC who are not the elected government. I suggest the court become more aware of their background and investigate if there may possibly be some connection. ~~This is an opportunity for the State to control the pension fund, its investments and its governance and transfer those to a group of people who have no investment in the PEOPLE who the fund is connected to, just to the cash.~~

This process makes me wonder if I and the rest of Detroiters, are Americans with the rights guaranteed under the US and Michigan constitutions. I don't feel that this process has protected ^{anyone's rights} my rights, the rights of my family, friends and neighbors. It is time for the courts to reexamine the use of bankruptcy in a municipal context and in a democracy. No other city should ever have to suffer this unjust process which drains resources of already ailing cities, worries everyone so much it affects their health, and the end result is abysmal. A much better alternative would be a forensic audit, clean elections, suing the banks for everything they have done to Detroit, and stronger regulations to be sure federal/state money intended for communities in Detroit actually gets to Detroiters. ~~This plan and its related documents horrify me for the future of the children of Detroit and for the future of any other city that municipal bankruptcy will be used on.~~ I stand in solidarity with the people of Central Falls Rhode Island, Puerto Rico, Stockton, and any other places this traveling greed circus set up camp.

Children here are not poor: they are impoverished. They are wearing threadbare shoes because banks and billionaires have been taking from the people. While the LIBOR crowd was on private jets and making jokes, the families in my neighborhood struggle to get through each day. Banks and billionaires take our tax money as if it was a funding stream for them. Our job as adults is to care for the children and seniors, the most vulnerable people on earth. This bankruptcy directly