



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

ANDY DILLON  
STATE TREASURER

**DATE:** February 19, 2013<sup>1</sup>

**TO:** Governor Snyder

**FROM:** Detroit Financial Review Team:  
Andy Dillon  
Darrell Burks  
Ronald E. Goldsberry  
Frederick Headen  
Thomas H. McTavish  
Kenneth Whipple

**SUBJECT:** Report of the Detroit Financial Review Team

The Detroit Financial Review Team met on December 19th and 20th 2012, and January 3rd, 7th, 9th, 16th, 25th, and February 1st, 14th, and 15th 2013, to review information relevant to the financial condition of the City of Detroit. Based upon those reviews, the Review Team concludes, in accordance with Section 14(3)(c) of Public Act 72 of 1990, the Local Government Fiscal Responsibility Act, that a local government financial emergency exists within the City of Detroit because no satisfactory plan exists to resolve a serious financial problem. Accompanying this report is supplemental documentation in support of our conclusion.

Our conclusion is based primarily upon the following considerations:

1. Cash Crisis. The City continues to experience a significant depletion of its cash. Projections have estimated a cumulative cash deficit in excess of \$100.0 million by June 30, 2013, absent implementation of financial countermeasures. While the Mayor and City Council deserve credit for considering and, in some instances, adopting difficult financial reforms, those reforms are too heavily weighted toward one-time savings and apply only to non-union employees who represent only a small portion of the City's overall wage and benefit burden.

<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to Section 14(3) of Public Act 72 of 1990, the Local Government Fiscal Responsibility Act, a Review Team is required to report its findings to the Governor within 60 days of its appointment, unless the Governor specifies an earlier date or grants a one-time 30-day extension. This Review Team was appointed on December 18, 2012, and in accordance with statutory convention, 60 days thereafter was February 16, 2013, a Saturday.

However, Section 6 of the Revised Statutes of 1846, which applies to statutes and administrative rules, provides that "[i]n computing a period of days, the first day is excluded and the last day is included. If the last day of any period or a fixed or final day is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the period or day is extended to include the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday." Therefore, this Review Team report is due on February 19, 2013.

2. General Fund Deficits. The City's General Fund has not experienced a positive year-end fund balance since fiscal year 2004. Since that time, the General Fund has had cumulative deficits ranging from \$155.4 million in fiscal year 2005, to \$331.9 million in fiscal year 2009. The General Fund deficit was \$326.6 million in fiscal year 2012. The primary methods by which City officials have sought to address these deficits has been by issuing long-term debt. While such an approach reduces the deficit in the year in which the debt is issued, it also reduces fund balance over time as debt service payments increase. Had City officials not issued debt, the City's accumulated General Fund deficit would have been \$936.8 million in fiscal year 2012.
3. Long-Term Liabilities. As of June 30, 2012, the City's long-term liabilities, including unfunded actuarial accrued pension liabilities and other post-employment benefits, exceeded \$14 billion. City officials have projected that over the next five years, the expenditures needed to fund certain long-term liabilities will total approximately \$1.9 billion. However, City officials have not yet devised a satisfactory plan to address the long-term liability issue.
4. Bureaucratic Structure. The City Charter contains numerous restrictions and structural details which make it extremely difficult for City officials to restructure the City's operations in any meaningful and timely manner. These restrictions include numerous steps and time periods which must be observed before certain proposed changes may be implemented and provisions which make it all but impossible to restructure municipal services.

Based upon the foregoing, the Review Team concludes, in accordance with Section 14(3)(c) of Public Act 72 of 1990, the Local Government Fiscal Responsibility Act, that a local government financial emergency exists within the City of Detroit because no satisfactory plan exists to resolve a serious financial problem. Section 14(3) of the Act also requires that a copy of this report be transmitted to Mayor Dave Bing, Detroit City Councilmembers, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Senate Majority Leader.

cc: Dave Bing, Mayor  
Detroit City Councilmembers  
James Bolger, Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Randy Richardville, Senate Majority Leader