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**JERROLL SANDERS**  
*For*  
**Mayor of Detroit**

July 2, 2009

Kenneth V. Cockrel, Council President  
JoAnn Watson, Council Member  
Sheila M. Cockrel, Council Member  
Barbara-Rose Collins, Council Member  
Kwame Kenyatta, Council Member  
Alberta Tinsley-Talabi, Council Member  
Martha Reeves, Council Member  
Brenda Jones, Council Member  
1340 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center  
2 Woodward Ave  
Detroit, MI 48226

Dear Messieurs and Mesdames:

I am writing on behalf of the citizens of Detroit, Michigan, to request a series of public meetings on the Cobo Hall legislation that will soon be brought before City Council. I was told City attorneys have indicated a public meeting is not required prior to Council consideration of HB-4998, as passed in the Senate on June 23, 2009, which is now before the Governor for signature. I disagree. The following excerpt from the legislation explicitly states, "The resolution shall be adopted and effective as provided by law, including any charter of the qualified city" (Page 16). The Detroit City Charter explicitly states that an agreement such as the Cobo Hall agreement that involves the collecting of rents, tolls [parking tolls] and affects existing ordinances requires consideration under ordinance procedures. The language from Section 4-114 of the Charter entitled City Action Requiring an Ordinance reads:

1. In addition to other acts required by law or by specific provision of this Charter to be done by ordinance, those acts of the city shall be by ordinance which:
2. Provide a penalty or establish a rule or regulation for violation of which a penalty is imposed;
3. Provide for the laying and collecting of rents, tolls, excises and taxes, except as otherwise provided in section 8-209 of this Charter concerning property taxes levied by budget; or

Amend or repeal any ordinance previously adopted.

Other acts may be done either by ordinance or resolution.

While the question of whether a public meeting is required might be a topic of dispute between citizens and the City's legal counsel, my belief is that good leadership gives voice to those whom it represents. Cobo Hall is vitally important to Detroit's economic future. There are far too many

concerns with this legislation to allow it to pass and bind the City of Detroit and its citizens to a 30-year agreement, without a full and thorough vetting. The legislation provides no ongoing revenue stream, restricts many Detroit residents from working for or contracting with the authority, requires the City of Detroit to return the \$20 million payment it receives upfront when the agreement ends and has many other terms that are not in the interest of Detroit residents. The following section on Page 16 of HB-4998, mandates charter compliance:

IF THE TRANSFER IS DISAPPROVED, NOT LATER THAN 1 AUGUST 1, 2009 OR 75 DAYS AFTER A LATER DATE ON WHICH A METROPOLITAN AREA BECOMES A QUALIFIED METROPOLITAN AREA, THE QUALIFIED CITY IN WHICH A QUALIFIED CONVENTION FACILITY IS LOCATED MAY DISAPPROVE LEASING THE QUALIFIED CONVENTION FACILITY TO THE AUTHORITY BY ADOPTING A RESOLUTION DISAPPROVING A LEASE OF THE QUALIFIED CONVENTION FACILITY TO THE AUTHORITY. **THE RESOLUTION SHALL BE ADOPTED AND EFFECTIVE AS PROVIDED BY LAW, INCLUDING ANY CHARTER OF THE QUALIFIED CITY.** IF A RESOLUTION DISAPPROVING THE LEASE IS ADOPTED AND EFFECTIVE, AN AUTHORITY CREATED FOR THE QUALIFIED METROPOLITAN AREA IN WHICH THE QUALIFIED CONVENTION FACILITY IS LOCATED IS DISSOLVED. IF THE LEASE IS NOT DISAPPROVED WITHIN THE PERIOD PROVIDED, THE LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE QUALIFIED CITY AND THE AUTHORITY SHALL ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT CONSISTENT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ACT PROVIDING FOR THE LEASE OF THE QUALIFIED CONVENTION FACILITY TO THE AUTHORITY FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN 30 YEARS.

Hence, I request that you mandate a series of public meetings pursuant to Section 4-115 of the Detroit Charter, including the publication and broad distribution of meeting notices, data packets on all assets involved, and full disclosure of numerical calculations used to determine terms of the Cobo Hall legislation, including appraisals and other relevant information.

Sincerely,

Mayoral Candidate, Jerroll Sanders