

THE COUNCIL OF BAPTIST PASTORS OF DETROIT AND VICINITY

The Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit and Vicinity has previously exercised restraint in publicly addressing the crisis of leadership in the City of Detroit, as it regards the administration of Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick. It was not our desire to be passive, but pastoral in our initial response to the mayor's problems. We welcomed the mayor into our forum to speak to us from his heart. He appealed to us for prayer and counsel, which was graciously offered and received with appreciation.

However, since our initial exchange with the mayor, legal charges have been mounting, as the mayor both defends himself and defies the judicial process to which he must be held accountable. The cumulative effect of decisions already handed down, has been to restrict his mobility, thus limiting his operation as the chief executive of our city.

There is an uncertain timeline for resolution of charges against the mayor, which will require even more time and attention away from the responsibilities of his office. The legal process threatens to mire the city in a mess for an indefinite period. The mayor's leadership of the city has already been rendered ineffective and is not likely to recover in the foreseeable future.

After prayerful consideration, this Council must now fulfill its prophetic duty to raise our voice to speak truth to power. For the good and welfare of the city, and to afford the opportunity to have Mayor Kilpatrick focus on the legal issues confronting him, we humbly urge the mayor to consider resignation from his office. Resignation would be an act of good faith that the mayor has the best interest of the city at heart and is committed to securing from our system of justice, the best possible outcome for himself and his family.

We will continue to pray for the mayor, that there may be brighter horizons for him beyond the clouds that hover over him today. God bless the mayor's family and all the citizens of our great city.