

Updated 09-05-08

## *The Detroit Mayoral Scandal*

This might not seem to be a story worth writing about in relation to local Whatcom County issues, but it's a fascinating story nonetheless. Detroit City Mayor, Kwame Kilpatrick is currently embroiled in criminal and no confidence issues that will likely see his end as Mayor of Detroit rather quickly. Most people have heard the story of his problems, his criminal issues and his arrests, but most people don't know *the rest of the story*, as Paul Harvey would say.

Several years ago, long before Kwame's problems exploded as they currently have, Kwame was running Detroit like the immature honor deficient individual that he is. He bullied and intimidated numerous people into all manners of mayhem,...just so that he could continue to have his way as a philandering lying criminal. Ethical people in Detroit's employ often found themselves the target of his underhanded tactics, usually through one of his chosen people that would do as he directed without question. Kwame's "enemies" often learned the hard way that to cross Kwame meant certain unemployment through some scheme designed to put them in a bad light as a "troubled employee" if things didn't go Kwame's way. Kwame sowed his seeds of deceit and used guile as a primary means of accomplishing his objectives.

This was especially true in Detroit's Police Department, who Kwame often treated as his own personal security and bodyguard service. Enter John Bennett, a former Detroit Policeman, a lowly patrolman who also ran afoul of Kwame's pitbull's when he refused to lie and cover-up for the Chief and Mayor's misdeeds. John started a website called [firejerryo.com](http://firejerryo.com), which only deepened the troubles between John and the Detroit PD's old guard to the point where they targeted him and scrutinized his every action until they could manufacture enough of a reason to fire John. Charges like "Conduct Unbecoming and Officer" and such were levied, but it did little to mask the real reason,.....his website which was critical of the Chief of Police at that time, Jerry Oliver.

John was suspended, then later terminated for his online efforts. It's a long and winding path of legal battles and other hurdles, but 4.5 years later he won back his job and all back pay and benefits for what the MERC ruled as John's "protected speech", making an important statement about an employee's right to speak freely regarding work related issues. John was openly critical of Chief Oliver, and the courts have ruled that he was within his rights to speak on these issues. Now, John was awarded his job, but still doesn't have his job back despite [court orders](#) to reinstate him. The Detroit Police Association is confident that they and John will ultimately prevail. As part of a whistleblowers lawsuit related to John's termination, the City of Detroit was ordered to pay out a \$9 Million Dollar judgement as well.

This is exactly the scenario that is played out routinely in modern law enforcement, but John decided to make a principled stand on ethics and honesty and has prevailed in the eyes of Detroit's citizenry who have voted his web site again as #1. The point of this story is that John is the reason why Kwame is facing the problems he currently has because John hasn't been sitting at home wringing his hands and waiting for the phone to ring. He's been busy investigating and recording every detail of Kwame's every move and reporting to the citizen's of Detroit and they love it. Kwame isn't going to admit it yet, but he's gone and he knows it. Kwame is done as Detroit's mayor and will be extremely lucky if he isn't serving a 15 year prison term in the very near future too....all because of one lowly patrolman.

We have our versions of Kwame, Oliver and Bennett in Whatcom County too. Problem is, no one ever hears about these things because the local media is locked down tight as a drum and information important to the public is seldom, if ever, reported on. John is currently running for Detroit's City Council and he looks like a shoe-in. It appears that John isn't the type to roll over and be bullied or intimidated into submission, which should make him a fine councilperson. I think that is probably what made him a good cop too. Too bad Detroit lost a good cop because of the Detroit *good ol' boys* network. Or did they? John seems to be doing a fine job of enforcing the laws, even without a badge.

Update: 09-05-08

Well, that didn't take long. Kwame's attorneys must have finally gotten some sense to leak it's way into his brain. The mayor of the this nation's 11th largest city today admitted to felonious activity and perjury under oath, as reported by [Detroit's Free Press](#). As part of his plea deal, he'll only serve four months in jail, out of a possible minimum 10 years, forfeit his law license and his pension from the state Legislature, pay up to \$1 million in restitution and serve 5 years of probation. He will leave office Sept. 18 and has promised not to run for office while on probation. Decent people across the fruited plain should rejoice with this turn of events.

This story should serve notice on *every* elected official in this nation that ethical behavior, honesty and integrity in office *does* matter. It cost too many careers to prove the point in this case, but it has been made in spades. Many other people eventually became ensnared in Kwame's web of deceit, but it was Detroit Patrolman John Bennett that had the courage and fortitude to get the ball rolling in the first place. Now that Kwame is out of the way, the skullduggery he employed has effectively been neutralized and it's likely that John will see his due in fairly short order. If for some odd reason John isn't elected to Detroit City Council, Detroit should rehire him into the Detroit Police Department and put him in a position of leadership over Kwame's cronies. Let's see how they like those apples.

Moral of the story: Headhunting may be fun and even effective in the short term, but it can have some serious long term negative complications like becoming a convicted felon, losing your law license, a \$1 million dollar restitution, 4 months in jail, being known as a liar the rest of your natural life.....

P.S. Well done John.

*~Editor~*