



City of Detroit  
CITY COUNCIL

KENNETH COCKREL JR.  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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For more information  
Contact: (313) 224-4505

**Statement on override of Mayor's partial veto of Council's 2007 – 2008 Budget**

Today I joined with the majority of my colleagues in voting to override Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's partial veto of the City Council's authorized 2007 –2008 Budget.

The Mayor directed his veto specifically to City Council's decision to call for the issuance of \$58 million in Fiscal Stabilization bonds. This move would address the deficit that would result if City Council does not approve a proposed management agreement with the city of Windsor for the Detroit – Windsor Tunnel.

The Mayor's position is that this action sends a dangerous message to Wall Street and could prompt a downgrade in the city's bond rating by bond rating agencies.

It is important to note that Council has only recommended that this action be taken in the event that the tunnel deal is not approved. Furthermore, Council also specified in its budget message that the Mayor always has the option of coming up with another way to address the deficit.

Let me also make this clear, the Mayor has yet to present a full-fledged set of documents outlining the deal.

So, while we appreciate the Mayor's confidence and enthusiasm regarding the collection of \$58 million from the Windsor Tunnel Agreement, we cannot share his assurance in the absence of a comprehensive agreement. It would be irresponsible and shortsighted to pass this budget assuming that we will collect revenues from a tunnel agreement that not only hasn't been approved but which also does not even exist at this point.

Therefore, the Detroit City Council respectfully disagreed with the Mayor and voted 8 – 0 to override his partial veto of the 2007 – 2008 budget.