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mayor in transition

Incoming Mayor Cockrel meets with Granholm and Worthy

By Zachary Gorchow • Free Press Staff Writer • September 10, 2008

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Incoming Detroit Mayor Ken Cockrel Jr. met separately this morning with Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy.

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In the meeting this morning with Granholm at the state's Cadillac Place building in the New Center area, Cockrel and the governor discussed expansion of Cobo Center and the city's late annual audit, among other items.

Granholm had her department directors with responsibilities in the city brief Cockrel, said Cockrel spokesman Daniel Cherrin.

"They talked about a variety of issues," Cherrin said.

The state is withholding about $23 million in revenue sharing aid to Detroit because it is nine months late with a required annual audit.

At 11 a.m., Cockrel and Worthy huddled in Cockrel's council office for about an hour. Worthy said the two discussed ways to improve the relationship between the Detroit Police Department and the prosecutor's office. The two have clashed in recent years, particularly over the prosecutor's view that police sometimes fail to provide sufficient evidence for the prosecutor's office to issue a warrant.

Worthy said that was one of the issues discussed. She said the two did not discuss her continuing investigation that led to the guilty pleas by resigning Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick in the text message scandal.

“As the Wayne County prosecutor and chief law enforcement officer of the County of Wayne, I just wanted to lay some issues out that we’re having with the Detroit Police Department as he goes on his selection process for the next police chief,” Worthy said. “I wanted him to know what was going on in the department. … I thought it important to lay everything on the table now.”

Worthy, who said she requested the meeting, said she did not offer suggestions as to who should succeed retired Chief Ella Bully-Cummings.

Worthy said she would like to meet monthly with Cockrel, and she said he was “more than happy” to do so.

The prosecutor declined to comment about the status of a possible plea deal with Christine Beatty, Kilpatrick’s former chief of staff and ex-lover who also faces felony charges in the text message scandal.

Cockrel takes office Sept. 19 once Kilpatrick's resignation takes effect.

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