

Dear Downtown Detroit Voters,

I'm running as a Socialist Party nominated candidate in the upcoming April 5, 2011 Citizens District Council election in order to help fight for a radically democratic reorientation of our city leadership's priorities toward an uncompromising dedication to serving and supporting the economic human needs and political struggles of the city's working class and oppressed majority, rather than perpetual accommodation to the insatiable profit demands of Ilich Holdings, Comerica Bank, DTE Energy, and the dozens of other multi-billion dollar firms that oligarchically comprise our city's "Downtown Detroit Partnership."

If elected to the Downtown Detroit Citizens' District Council on April 5th, I plan to propose and support implementation of the following measures to the greatest feasible extent during the course of my three year term in office. Correspondingly, I also greatly look forward to adding new proposals and changes to this list, in reflection of additionally congruent proposals and ideas expressed by other CDC members and Downtown District residents.

### **Democratic Economic Development that Works for Working People**

- Renovation and re-opening of closed factories and commercial storefronts under social ownership and workers' control.
- City funding for the development of community-owned and cooperatively run grocery stores in all areas where needed.
- Elimination of the city's nearly \$137 million annual handout in city grants and tax breaks to private for-profit corporations.
- Expansion of curbside recycling to all city residences and locations where trash pick-up is conducted.
- Immediate decommissioning of Detroit's trash incinerator..
- City funding for the expansion of internet access to city residents, including the development of 24-hour computer labs and freely connectible wireless networks in city neighborhoods.
- Support continued development of community- and cooperative-based urban agriculture.
- Complete restoration and expansion of the city's 24 hour warming centers for the homeless during cold and winter months,
- City funding/sponsorship of community food banks for the hungry.

### ***--Putting Detroit Back to Work With Dignity***

- Enactment of a citywide living wage ordinance of at least \$16/hr.
- Development of a major public works program to rebuild our city and communities,.
- Establishment of a 100% capital flight tax on any corporate employer that attempts to cut labor or regulatory costs by moving its operations out of the city.
- Mandatory hiring of under-/unemployed Detroit city residents for all Detroit Land Bank Commission housing rehabilitation & neighborhood revitalization projects, rather than continuing to outsource such project labor to corporate subcontracting firms

### ***--Expanding Safe & Efficient Access to Travel***

- Full support for the development of the Woodward Light Rail and Ann Arbor-to-Detroit Regional Rail Project.
- Renewed expansion of Detroit's People Mover as a metropolitan region-wide light-rail transit system.
- Expansion of the Detroit Department of Transportation's service budget and establishment of 24-hour city bus service
- Development of new greenways, pedestrian/ bicycle paths, and other open park and recreation spaces.

### ***--Defending Quality & Affordable Housing***

- Establishment of rent-control for all new and existing rental housing units. Opposition to any measure serving to escalate gentrification or reduce the availability of affordable downtown living options for low-income city residents.
- Organization of a Downtown District tenants' union, fully empowered to conduct negotiations and rent strikes over downtown area rental rates, leasing policies, and housing conditions.
- Support for the formation of housing cooperatives and nonprofit land trusts. .

### ***-- Economic Democracy - For a Working People's Economy!***

Commitment to actively supporting all measures, developments, industrial and political mobilizations, and mass-actions that can help lead the way toward the one and only long-term solution to the systemically ingrained economic crisis that Detroit, and growing numbers of other cities, now face amid the decline of our outmoded capitalist system. That is to say the working class majority's collective attainment of political power, and corresponding establishment of a classless democratic socialist society through its:

- Placement of all major corporations and banks under

- social ownership and worker-control;
- Democratic and fully transparent economic planning; coordinated with workers' self-management at the point of production;
- Regeneration of Detroit's economy by eliminating the unaffordable, outmoded, and superfluous expense of private profit from workers' unpaid labor; – and –
- Extension of democracy to the economy and the workplace.

### **Defending our Civil, Democratic and Human Rights**

- Immediate cessation and reversal of all water, gas, and electricity shutoffs for residents unable to pay their utility bills.
- Support for affirmative action and comparable worth policies in all applicable city employment and contracting decisions.
- Establishment of strict legal penalties for the police practice of racial profiling.
- Termination of the Detroit Police Department's participation in the "War on Drugs." and support for voluntary and incentivized treatment, rather than criminal penalties, for those suffering from narcotics addictions.
- Establishment of 24-hour childcare and medical facilities, crisis lines and shelters for victims and survivors of rape, domestic violence and child abuse, and community-based education and response teams to combat violence against women and children.
- Establishment of democratically elected police oversight councils with full power to detain, arrest, and charge police officers who commit any violation of civil liberties or civil rights.
- Adoption of resolutions declaring non-recognition to the authority of any state-appointed "Emergency Financial Manager" to usurp the powers of locally elected officials.
- Restoration of city funding for each citizens' district council to maintain staff and offices in the communities they serve..
- Amendment to the Detroit City Charter to give citizens' district councils permanently binding authority over the approval and rejection of proposed development projects within their respective jurisdictions.
- Demand that Mayor Bing end and correct his unlawful exclusion of Detroit's Citizens' District Council representatives from his Detroit Works Project Advisory Board.
- Adoption of CDC resolutions demanding an immediate end to all U.S. military engagements in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Pakistan, immediate withdrawal of all U.S. forces stationed overseas, cessation of all U.S. military aid and arms sales, and redirection of present U.S. military spending to cities, schools, jobs, and social needs.

**THE SOCIALIST PARTY** strives to establish a radical democracy that places peoples' lives under their own control - a non racist, classless, feminist, non-heterosexual socialist society where working people own and control the means of production and distribution, through democratically-controlled committees and assemblies; where full employment is realized for everyone who wants to work; where workers have the right to form unions freely, and to strike and engage in other forms of job actions; and where the production of society is used for the benefit of all humanity, not for the private profit of a few. We believe socialism and democracy are one and indivisible. The working class is in a key and central position to fight back against the ruling capitalist class and its power. The working class is the major force worldwide that can lead the way to a socialist future – to a real radical democracy from below.

The Socialist Party fights for progressive changes compatible with a socialist future. We advocate militant working class struggles and electoral action, independent of the capitalist-controlled two-party system, to present socialist alternatives. We strive for democratic social revolutions — radical and fundamental changes in the structure and nature of economic, political and social relations — to abolish the power now exercised by the few who control the economy and the government. The Socialist Party is a democratic, multi-tendency organization, with structure and practices visible and accessible to all members. **Join us today!**

### Detroit Socialist Party/Socialist Party USA

I want to join the Socialist Party; please send me a membership application.

I want to learn more about the Socialist Party; please have a Party representative contact me.

I want to make a contribution to the Socialist Party in my state; enclosed is a check/money order for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

(Please make checks payable to "Socialist Party of Michigan")

FULL NAME:

\_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS:

\_\_\_\_\_

CITY & STATE::

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS:

\_\_\_\_\_

Send form to:

Detroit Socialist Party,  
2937 E. Grand Blvd. #3,  
Detroit, MI 48202

**Detroit Socialist Party:**  
[www.detroit-socialist-party.org](http://www.detroit-socialist-party.org)

**Socialist Party of Michigan:**  
[www.spmichigan.org](http://www.spmichigan.org)

**Socialist Party USA:**  
[www.socialistparty-usa.org](http://www.socialistparty-usa.org)

# MATT ERARD



**Socialist for Detroit  
Downtown District  
Citizens' District Council**



**On the April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
Election Ballot**

**Polls are open 7:00AM-8:00PM.  
Downtown District Polling Location:  
Chrysler Elementary School  
1445 E. Lafayette St., Detroit, MI 48207**

**Campaign Website:  
[www.erard2011.spmichigan.org](http://www.erard2011.spmichigan.org)**