

FLINT GOVERNANCE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Background Information

May 3, 2014

May 10, 2014

May 15, 2014

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

- ▶ Dr. Eric Scorsone, economist from Michigan State University
 - ▶ Focuses on distressed cities in Michigan
 - ▶ Previously worked on Michigan's Emergency Manager law – BUT –
 - ▶ Involved here only to provide information on Flint's economy and city finances
- ▶ <http://vimeo.com/92943252>

GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW: FLINT'S CURRENT STRUCTURE

- ▶ Mayor:
 - ▶ Popularly elected
 - ▶ Involved in policy, symbolic leader of the City
 - ▶ Ultimately responsible for the day-to-day management of City Hall through City Administrator and departments (“strong mayor”)
- ▶ City Council:
 - ▶ 9 members elected by wards
 - ▶ The legislative body- sets policy
- ▶ Has been in place since 1974- is it meeting our needs today?

GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW: CITY COUNCIL/MANAGER STRUCTURES

- ▶ Mayor:
 - ▶ Popularly elected and serves on City Council or City Council chooses among their members
 - ▶ Serves as President of City Council, involved in policy, symbolic leader of the City
 - ▶ Not involved in day-to-day management of the City
- ▶ City Council:
 - ▶ Elected (either by wards, at-large, or a combination)
 - ▶ The legislative body-sets policy

GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW: CITY COUNCIL/MANAGER STRUCTURES

- ▶ City Manager
 - ▶ Reports to City Council and Mayor
 - ▶ Responsible for day-to-day management of the City and carrying out the policies set by City Council
 - ▶ Not to be confused with “Emergency Manager”

GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW: CITY COUNCIL/MANAGER STRUCTURES

- ▶ Not the same as a City Administrator in Strong Mayor system.
Why?
 - ▶ City Administrator reports to the Mayor alone
 - ▶ Almost all City Managers are members of ICMA, a professional association for city and county managers
 - ▶ Strict code of ethics and requirements for competence in city management
 - ▶ Penalties for violating professional ethics
 - ▶ Most city managers have advanced degrees in public administration or similar field

CORE CONCEPTS

We all deserve **quality services, stable financial management,** and **accountability of elected and appointed officials.**

What **changes** are needed to get us there?