



Delphi Salaried Retirees Association (DSRA Inc.)
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Williams to Delphi Salaried Retirees: Get a Job!

On February 10th two representatives from the Delphi Salaried Retirees Association met for more than two hours with former Youngstown mayor Jay Williams who is now the Executive Director of the Office of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers. Several requests were delivered to Williams by the retirees and a commitment was made by him to “get back together in about three weeks.”

Sadly, the promised “follow up” meeting which could have taken the form of a simple phone conference was never held in spite of repeated requests by the retirees. This week, nearly THREE MONTHS later a written response has been received that essentially tells the retirees to “go get a job” and only offers the standard resources of the Office of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers. Mr. Williams did pass the retirees’ request to meet with President Obama on “to those who handle such requests at the White House.”

Mr. Williams' letter completely ignores the disparate and discriminatory treatment the Salaried Retirees received at the hands of the Obama Administration which resulted in tens of millions of dollars in economic loss and 1,500 jobs lost to our Mahoning Valley in an area already leading the nation in poverty. It also ignores the requests for the Obama Administration to live up to the president's promise of transparency in his administration instead of fighting to protect and keep hidden the records of the government's involvement in the decisions made during the auto industry bailout. One can only presume what the reasons for this deceptive and deceitful practice could be, but there is no question the administration has further divided the country into those represented by strong and politically powerful labor unions and those who are not.

For nearly three years the Delphi Salaried Retirees have been seeking “fair and equitable treatment” in the Obama Administration led auto industry bailout that completely left them out but protected the pensions of hourly retirees. The meeting with Williams represented an opportunity to bring their issues up with a representative of the Obama Administration. Mr. Williams said several times he was there as that representative because he had been “dispatched by the Administration” and so the retirees had hoped the discussion would help to move their issues to a fair resolution; one that would restore their earned pensions and the more than 1500 jobs that have been lost in this area because of the loss of income the salaried retirees have had to endure.

The lack of a fair and equitable resolution leaves the retirees to compete with thousands of younger workers who are also looking a job, and does nothing to correct the mistreatment deemed by the administration to be appropriate for non-represented workers who make up 93% of the American private industry workforce.

A copy of the letter is provided.

Addendum:

To the Delphi Salaried Retirees, President Obama has become a personification of hypocrisy. He does not do what he says in public, rather using his position of authority to help special interests and his own re-election campaign. Some quotes and internet links to videos of him making them are below:

- *"I assume people meant what they said when they said it. That's been at least my practice."*
(April 30, 2012 - posted at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4HHuupeGLjU>)

Oh really? Look at what he said and then compare that to what his "practice" has been:

- *"Pension protection is something we should put at the top of our priority list. Right now, bankruptcy laws are more focused on protecting banks than protecting pensions and I don't think that's fair. It's not the America I believe in. It's time to stop cutting back the safety net for working people while we protect golden parachutes for the well off. If you work hard and play by the rules, then you've earned your pension. If a company goes bankrupt, then workers need to be our top priority, not an afterthought."*
(May 18 2008 - posted at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHJzTdCsiGk>)
- *"The way to make government responsible is to hold it accountable. And the way to make government accountable is to make it transparent so that the American people can know exactly what decisions are being made, how they are being made, and whether their interests are being well served. The directives I am giving my Administration today on how to interpret the Freedom of Information Act will do just that. For a long time now there's been too much secrecy in this city. The old rules said that if there was a defensible argument for not disclosing something to the American people, then it should not be disclosed. That era is now over. Starting today, every agency and department should know that this Administration stands on the side, not of those who seek to withhold information, but those who seek to make it known. To be sure, issues like personal privacy and national security must be treated with the care they demand. But the mere fact that you have the legal power to keep something secret does not mean you should always use it. The Freedom of Information Act is perhaps the most powerful instrument we have for making our government honest and transparent, and of holding it accountable. And I expect members of my Administration to not simply live up to the letter, but also the spirit of this law. I will also hold myself as president to a new standard of openness. . Going forward, any time the American people want to know something that I or a former president wants to withhold, we will have to consult with the Attorney General and the White House Counsel whose business it is to insure compliance with the rule of law. Information will not be withheld just because I say so. It will be withheld because a separate authority believes my request is well grounded in the Constitution. Let me say it as simply as I can. Transparency and the rule of law will be the touchstones of this presidency."*
January 21, 2009 at White House Ceremony: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72g7qmeP1dE>
- *"I just sat in there for a moment and pondered the courage and tenacity that is part of our very recent history, but is also part of the long line of folks who sometimes are nameless, oftentimes didn't make the history books, but who constantly insisted on their dignity, their share of the American dream."* (April 18, 2012 in Dearborn, MI)

The Delphi salaried retirees vow to continue fighting for their dignity too.



April 27, 2012

Mr. Bruce Gump
Vice Chairman, Board of Directors
Delphi Salaried Retirees Association
P.O. Box 64
Carmel, IN 46082-0064

Dear Mr. Gump:

This letter is to follow up on the meeting in Youngstown last month with you and Ms. Mary Ann Hudzik representing the Delphi Salaried Retirees Association. The stories you and Ms. Hudzik shared regarding the Delphi and General Motors bankruptcies and the resulting impact on the Delphi retirees were very moving, and I appreciate your insights and your candor.

As the director of the Office of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers, I have had the honor of meeting with thousands of hard-working men and women whose lives and livelihoods have been greatly affected by the restructuring of our automobile industry. While we are all relieved that the American auto industry appears to be recovering, too many individuals, including the salaried retirees from Delphi, and the communities in which they live, continue to suffer the impact of closed plants, loss of jobs and income, and suppliers struggling to stay in business.

I came home to Youngstown that day prepared to listen, and to talk about how federal programs and assistance might be able to help northeast Ohio recover and rebuild. That can include programs to support the return of local manufacturing jobs or re-purposing abandoned industrial sites, as well as skills training, college assistance, and entrepreneur programs that can help individuals and their families.

For example, if any Delphi retirees want to go back to work or explore a second career, programs are available to provide assistance and support for people who want help finding and applying for a job. If new skills are required, or if existing skills need to be sharpened, training may be available.

Delphi retirees may be eligible for assistance through the Workforce Investment Act Adult and Dislocated Worker program. This program is designed to provide quality employment and training services to assist eligible individuals in finding and qualifying for meaningful employment and to help employers find the skilled workers they need to compete and succeed in business. These, and additional resources can be accessed through the local One-Stop Career Centers. The One Stop delivery system provides

universal access to an integrated array of labor exchange services so that workers, job seekers and businesses can find the services they need in one stop and frequently under one roof in easy-to-find locations. More information on One-Stop Career Centers is available at the Employment and Training Administration hotline at 1-877-US2 JOBS (1-877-872-5627) (TTY: 1-877-889-5627), or by visiting www.careeronestop.org.

Unfortunately, there may be individuals who face extreme hardships, such as those with disabilities, or those who face the loss of their home. Similarly, the communities in which Delphi retirees reside may be struggling to respond to economic development challenges, increases in crime, environmental concerns, and other issues which have indirectly made the struggles of the individual retirees more difficult. The Office of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers has worked with many communities facing similar issues to identify resources available to assist in these situations. We are committed to working with state and local leaders, and organizations such as the Delphi Salaried Retirees Association, to try to make sure that help gets to the people who need it.

What I was and am unable to address, however, are the matters at issue in the litigation arising out of the termination of the Delphi pension plan by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation ("PBGC"). Neither the Department of Labor nor the Office of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers is a party to this lawsuit and cannot represent or speak for the PBGC in this matter. Any issues concerning this lawsuit should be directed by your counsel to the PBGC's attorneys in that case.

One item you had specifically requested was a meeting with the President to explain your situation and your proposed solution. I was happy to pass your request along to those who handle such requests at the White House and have done so.

In the meantime, the Office of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers and I stand ready to follow up on questions or suggestions you or others at the Delphi Salaried Retirees Association may have regarding opportunities to assist those who continue to be affected by the restructuring of the auto industry.

For more information, individuals may contact the Office of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers at autorecovery@dol.gov.

Sincerely,



Jay Williams, Director
Office of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers