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  - PR WIRE
  - BOOKSTORE
  - CONTACT
- TOPICS
- RUSSIA'S CRISIS
  - IRAQ WAR
  - ENVIRONMENT
  - ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION
  - CRIME

## World: North America

# Mayor Kilpatrick cops plea, Detroit breathes easy

*Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick was sentenced to jail, \$1 million in fines, and the loss of his law license, for obstruction of justice. His ex-lover and assistant awaits judgement.*

By Martin Barillas

Thursday, September 04, 2008

Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick of Detroit, scion of Michigan's Democratic party, plead guilty on the morning of September 4 to two felony counts of obstructing justice by committing perjury. His sentence includes four months jail time, a \$1 million fine, as well as five years' probation. Kilpatrick will also forfeit his license to practice law and forego elective office for five years. He was scheduled to speak to the people of Detroit later in the evening on September 4. Kilpatrick will have to step down within 14 days.

Speaking in the court of Judge David Groner, Kilpatrick said without emotion, "I lied under oath in the case of [Gary Brown](#) and Harold Nelthrope versus the city of Detroit ... I did so with the intent to mislead the court and jury, to impede and obstruct the disposition of justice."

Mayor Kilpatrick also agreed to a no-contest plea to a count of felonious assault of a sheriff's deputy, who was trying to serve Kilpatrick with a subpoena in July 2008. He agreed to serve four months on that charge as well but it will be served contemporaneously with the other sentence. The dapper Kilpatrick will also turn over his state pension to the City of Detroit to compensate for the \$8.4 million in settlement costs it paid to settle lawsuits filed against the city by former police officers. He was charged with 8 felony counts that ranged from conspiracy, perjury, misconduct, and obstruction of justice following revelations in January 2008 that Kilpatrick had lied and given misleading testimony to a Detroit court about whether he intended to fire a deputy police chief for investigating misdeeds by his closest advisors.

According to [the Detroit Free Press](#), University of Detroit Mercy law professor Larry Dubin, a critic of the mayor, said "The deal that the mayor agreed to ... is a major victory for the prosecutor, the mayor and the people of the City of Detroit and State of Michigan." Dubin also praised [Wayne County](#) prosecutor Kym Worthy for her handling of a politically explosive case, saying "She has demonstrated integrity in holding a public official accountable for serious criminal violations that constituted serious breaches of the public trust."

The dapper, smiling Kilpatrick joked with reporters before the hearing and suggested that they check their sources for stories about him. After the hearing, he was seen to summon and then kiss his wife Carlita Kilpatrick but also shake hands with former lover and chief of staff Christine Beatty who was also in the courtroom. Beatty will face the court later in the month on her own criminal charges in hope of copping a deal similar to Kilpatrick's. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, the mayor's mother, serves as US Representative for the 13th congressional district.

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policemen sued the city alleging that their careers were ruined because of their investigation of an improper relationship between Kilpatrick and Beatty.

City Council Ken Cockrel Jr., also a Democrat, is set to become the Detroit's 61st mayor upon Kilpatrick's resignation and plans to take immediate action for a city plague

*Martin Barillas is a former US diplomat, who also worked as a democracy advocate and election observer in Latin America.*

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