

Jailed Mayor Kilpatrick called on to resign

By DEMETRIA IRWIN

Amsterdam New Staff

He spent a night in jail for violating the conditions of his bond and is now out again on bond, but this time with a tether and is facing additional felony charges for allegedly shoving a Wayne County detective. This young man is a native Detroit, but he's not just any Motown inhabitant. He's the mayor, and his very public fall from grace has been meticulously documented in the national news.

A paper bag has been the headwear of choice for many Detroiters in the months since Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's sexually explicit text messages sent to and from his then-Chief of Staff Christine Beatty came to light. Both were married to other people at the time. Mayor Kilpatrick is still married; Beatty's husband divorced her. Mayor Kilpatrick and Beatty each face felony charges for allegedly lying about their affair under oath during a civil trial against the mayor that cost the cash-strapped city nearly \$9 million.

Mayor Kilpatrick has been free on bond since being hit with the perjury and misconduct charges. One of the conditions of his bond was that he get approval for any travel outside the state. Judge Roland Giles put the mayor in the clink on August 7 for traveling to Canada without approval. Mayor Kilpatrick said the trip was for business, but Judge Giles did not find that to be an acceptable excuse. "If it was not Kwame Kilpatrick sitting in that seat, if it was John Six-Pack sitting in the seat, what would I do?" asked Judge Giles before revoking the mayor's bond.

Calls for Kilpatrick's resignation have been going on in earnest for months, but after he was put in jail, the effort to get him out kicked into high gear. Now serving his second term, Kilpatrick was just 31 years old when he was first elected

mayor, making him the youngest mayor in Detroit's history. Many saw his youth and energy as a breath of fresh air for a city bogged down in bureaucracy and old-school politics, but a lot of those supporters are now calling for the mayor to step down. Even Kilpatrick's former pastor has asked him to leave office. "Mr. Mayor, the time has come. You must resign. This city's progress and, quite frankly, your accomplishments, have become overshadowed by the dark abyss of political chaos leaving us unfocused, irresolute and chaotically challenged," said Reverend Edgar Vann in a Detroit Free Press editorial.

Councilmember Alberta Tinsley-Talabi was previously against efforts to oust the mayor, but has since decided that she will be voting to remove Kilpatrick at the City Council's August 18 forfeiture hearing. The Council of Black

Baptist Pastors of Detroit and Vicinity has also publicly called for the mayor to step down. "For the good of the city...we humbly urge the mayor to consider resignation from his office. Resignation would be an act of good faith," said the organization's leader, Rev. Oscar King, at a press conference earlier this month.

After spending one night in prison, Kilpatrick appeared in the courtroom of Judge Thomas Jackson. The judge admonished Kilpatrick for behavior that seemed "designed almost to defy the court's orders," but nonetheless allowed Kilpatrick to go free on a \$50,000 cash bond and ordered the mayor to don an ankle tether. Travel restrictions will prevent the mayor from attending the Democratic National Convention in Denver later this month.

Upon being released from jail and given bond, Kilpatrick was

in court again to face two felony assault charges stemming from an alleged shove he gave to a Wayne County Detective who was trying to serve a subpoena. Kilpatrick was released after posting 10 percent of a \$25,000 bond. The mayor entered a not-guilty plea on those charges and will face a preliminary examination on August 15.

On August 18, the City Council will hold a forfeiture hearing about removing the mayor. Just a couple weeks after that, on September 3, Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm has scheduled an administrative hearing to decide whether to remove Kilpatrick. Thus far, Kilpatrick has refused to resign.

At an August 12 hearing about yet another possible bond violation (the judge ruled that the mayor had not violated his bond), Kilpatrick exited the proceedings hand in hand with his wife, Carlita.