In re:

Bankruptcy Case No. 13-53846

City of Detroit, Michigan,

Honorable Thomas J. Tucker

Debtor.

Chapter 9

<u>DEBTOR'S THIRTY-EIGHTH OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO CERTAIN</u> <u>CLAIMS</u>

(Tax Refund Claims Not Subject to the Claims Process in this Bankruptcy Case)

THIS OBJECTION SEEKS TO MODIFY, DISALLOW AND/OR EXPUNGE CERTAIN FILED PROOFS OF CLAIM. CLAIMANTS RECEIVING THIS OBJECTION SHOULD CAREFULLY REVIEW THIS OBJECTION AND LOCATE THEIR NAMES AND CLAIMS ON THE EXHIBIT ATTACHED TO THIS OBJECTION.

The Debtor, the City of Detroit ("City"), by and through its undersigned counsel, files this objection ("Objection") requesting that the Court enter an order, substantially in the form attached as Exhibit 1, disallowing and expunging each of the claims identified on Exhibit 2 on the basis that each claim is not subject to the claims administration process in this bankruptcy case and is to be administered outside the Plan in the ordinary course of business. In support of this Objection, the City respectfully states as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This Court has jurisdiction over this Objection pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334 and Article VII, Section A of the Plan (defined below). This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b). Venue is proper before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

BACKGROUND FACTS

- 2. On July 18, 2013 ("<u>Petition Date</u>"), the City filed a petition for relief in this Court, thereby commencing the largest Chapter 9 bankruptcy case in history.
- 3. On November 21, 2013, this Court issued its *Order*, *Pursuant to Sections 105*, 501, and 503 of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules 2002 and 3003(c), Establishing Bar Dates for Filing Proofs of Claim and Approving Form and Manner of Notice Thereof [Doc. No. 1782] ("Bar Date Order"), establishing deadlines to file certain proofs of claim in this case. The Bar Date Order set the deadline to file proofs of claim as February 21, 2014 at 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time ("Bar Date").
- 4. On December 5, 2013, this Court held that the City was eligible for relief under Chapter 9 of the Bankruptcy Code. See Order for Relief Under Chapter 9 of the Bankruptcy Code. [Doc. No. 1946].

- 5. On July 9, 2014, this Court entered its *Order Pursuant to 11 U.S.C.* § 105(a) and Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3007 Approving Claim Objection Procedures [Doc. No. 5872] ("Claims Procedures Order"), allowing the City to file omnibus objections with respect to claims that have been addressed by the Plan or otherwise are not subject to the claims process in this case. (Claim Procedures Order at 2.)
- 6. On October 22, 2014, the City filed the Eight Amended Plan of the Adjustment of Debts of the City of Detroit (October 22, 2014) [Doc. No. 8045] ("Plan").
- 7. On November 12, 2014, this Court entered an Order confirming the Plan [Doc. No. 8272] ("Confirmation Order").
 - 8. With respect to tax refund claims, the Plan provides

From and after the Effective Date, the City will continue to administer (either directly or through a third party administrator) and pay all valid claims for income tax refunds and property tax refunds for which the City is responsible under applicable law, regardless of when the applicable right to a refund arose, in accordance with the City's prepetition practices and procedures. The City expressly reserves the right to challenge the validity of any claim for an income tax refund or property tax refund.

Plan Art. IV.T, p. 63; see also Confirmation Order, p. 108-09, ¶ 59.

- 9. Consequently, tax refund claims are to be addressed in the ordinary course of the City's business and are not subject to the claims administration process in this bankruptcy case.¹
 - 10. The Plan became effective on December 10, 2014 ("Effective Date").
- 11. Each of the claims listed on Exhibit 2 asserts a tax refund claim that is not subject to the claims administration process in this bankruptcy case.

RELIEF REQUESTED

12. The City files this Objection pursuant to the Bar Date Order, Section 502(b) of the Bankruptcy Code,² Rule 3007(c) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedures ("Bankruptcy Rules"), and the Claims Procedures Order, seeking entry of an order disallowing and expunging each of the claims identified on Exhibit 2 because each such claim asserts a tax refund claim that is not subject to the claims administration process and does not receive a distribution under the Plan in this bankruptcy case.³

¹ Early in this bankruptcy case, the City made a decision to handle these tax refund claims in the ordinary course of business and outside the context of a chapter 11 plan. Back in August of 2013, the City obtained the entry of the Order, Pursuant to Section 362(d)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, Lifting the Automatic Stay to the Extent Necessary to Permit Appeals of City Property Tax Assessments to Proceed in the Ordinary Course [Doc. No. 563] to permit the tax assessment process to continue in accordance with ordinary procedures.

² Section 502 of the Bankruptcy Code applies to Chapter 9 proceedings pursuant to Section 901(a) of the Bankruptcy Code.

³ Because of this treatment under the Plan, tax refund claims were not classified under the Plan and do not receive distributions pursuant to the Plan.

13. To the extent the Court does not expunge one or more of the claims identified on Exhibit 2, the City reserves all of its rights to object, on any basis, to any of the claims identified on Exhibit 2.

BASIS FOR RELIEF REQUESTED

- 14. The City has reviewed the claims identified on Exhibit 2 and submits that that each such claim is a tax refund claim that is not subject to the claims administration process in this bankruptcy case.
- 15. The Declaration of Charles Raimi, Deputy Corporation Counsel, (the "<u>Declaration</u>") explains the process undertaken by the City and confirms that the claims identified on <u>Exhibit 2</u> are tax refund claims not subject to the claims administration process in this bankruptcy case. *See Declaration of Charles Raimi*, attached hereto as <u>Exhibit 3</u>.
- 16. The Claims Procedures Order and Bankruptcy Rule 3007(c) allow the City to file this Objection as an omnibus objection. Specifically, Bankruptcy Rule 3007(c) authorizes the Court to allow for omnibus objections beyond those circumstances itemized in Bankruptcy Rule 3007(d), and the Claims Procedures Order expressly permits the City to file an omnibus objection with respect to claims that are not subject to the claims administration process in this bankruptcy case. (Claims Procedures Order at 2.).

- 17. This Court has the authority to enter an order approving this Objection. Moreover, the streamlined process afforded by an omnibus objection (in lieu of individual objections to each of the claims identified on Exhibit 2) will result in material costs savings that will inure to the benefit of the City. Accordingly, the City believes that the relief sought by this Objection is in the best interests of the City and its creditors.
- 18. Based upon the foregoing, the City seeks entry of an order, substantially in the form annexed as Exhibit 1, expunging and disallowing each of the claims identified on Exhibit 2. Accordingly, pursuant to section 502(b) of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 3007(c), the Court should grant the relief requested.

SEPARATE CONTESTED MATTERS

19. To the extent that a response is filed regarding any claim listed in this Objection and the City is unable to resolve the response, each one of those claims, and the objection by the City to each one of those claims asserted, should constitute a separate contested matter as contemplated by Bankruptcy Rule 9014. Any order entered by the Court regarding an objection asserted in this Objection should be deemed a separate order with respect to each such claim and, to the extent necessary under Bankruptcy Rules 7054 and 9014, should constitute a final judgment with respect to such claim, and the Court should expressly determine that

there is no just reason for delay of the entry of the final judgment with respect to such claim.

20. The City files this Objection without prejudice to or waiver of its rights pursuant to section 904 of the Bankruptcy Code, and nothing herein is intended to, shall constitute or shall be deemed to constitute the City's consent, pursuant to section 904 of the Bankruptcy Code, to this Court's interference with (a) any of the political or governmental powers of the City, (b) any of the property or revenues of the City or (c) the City's use or enjoyment of any income-producing property.

NOTICE

21. The City has provided notice of this Objection to each of the claimants identified on Exhibit 2 at the address set forth by each of the claimants on its respective proof of claim, and all other parties who have requested notice pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002. Given the nature of the relief requested, the City respectfully submits that no other or further notice of this Objection need be given.

WHEREFORE, the City respectfully requests that this Court enter an order, substantially in the form attached as Exhibit 1, granting the relief requested herein and granting the City such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: March 10, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Marc N. Swanson

Jonathan S. Green (P33140) Marc N. Swanson (P71149)

MILLER, CANFIELD, PADDOCK AND

STONE, P.L.C.

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and

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ATTORNEYS FOR THE CITY OF DETROIT

In re:	Bankruptcy Case No. 13-53846
City of Detroit, Michigan,	Honorable Thomas J. Tucker
Debtor.	Chapter 9

NOTICE OF DEBTOR'S THIRTY-EIGHTH OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO CERTAIN CLAIMS

(Tax Refund Claims Not Subject to the Claims Process in this Bankruptcy Case)

PLEASE CAREFULLY REVIEW THIS OBJECTION AND THE ATTACHMENTS HERETO TO DETERMINE WHETHER THIS OBJECTION AFFECTS YOUR CLAIMS(S).

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT the City of Detroit ("City") has filed an objection to your claim because it asserts a tax refund claim that is not subject to the claims administration process in this bankruptcy case ("Thirty-Eighth Omnibus Objection") and, therefore, should be disallowed and expunged.

YOUR CLAIM MAY BE REDUCED, MODIFIED OR ELIMINATED
PURSUANT TO FED. R. BANKR. P. 3007(e)(1) AND PRIOR ORDERS OF
THIS COURT. YOU SHOULD CAREFULLY REVIEW EXHIBIT 2 OF
THE THIRTY-EIGHTH OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO FIND YOUR NAME
AND CLAIM. YOU SHOULD READ THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY AND
DISCUSS THEM WITH YOUR ATTORNEY, IF YOU HAVE ONE.

If you do not want the court to eliminate or change your claim, or grant the relief requested in the Thirty-Eighth Omnibus Objection, then on or before **April 6**, **2016**, you or your lawyer must:

1. File with the court, at the address below, a written response to the objection. Unless a written response is filed and served by the date stated above, the court may decide that you do not oppose the objection to your claim.

Clerk of the Court United States Bankruptcy Court 211 W. Fort Street, Suite 2100 Detroit, MI 48226

If you mail your response to the Court for filing, you must mail it early enough so that the Court will <u>receive</u> it on or before the date stated above. All attorneys are required to file pleadings electronically.

2. A copy of your response must also be mailed to counsel for the City:

Marc N. Swanson Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, PLC 150 West Jefferson, Suite 2500 Detroit, MI 48226

3. You must also attend the hearing on the objection scheduled to be held on **April 13, 2016, at 11:00 a.m. in Courtroom 1925, 211 W. Fort Street, Detroit, MI 48226** unless your attendance is excused by mutual agreement between yourself and the objector's attorney.

If you or your attorney does not take these steps, the court may decide that you do not oppose the objection to your claim, in which event the hearing will be cancelled and the objection sustained.

MILLER, CANFIELD, PADDOCK AND STONE, P.L.C.

By: /s/ Marc N. Swanson

Marc N. Swanson (P71149) 150 West Jefferson, Suite 2500

Detroit, Michigan 48226 Telephone: (313) 963-6420 Facsimile: (313) 496-8451

swansonm@millercanfield.com

Dated: March 10, 2016

EXHIBIT 1: PROPOSED ORDER

In re:

City of Detroit, Michigan,

Debtor.

Bankruptcy Case No. 13-53846

Honorable Thomas J. Tucker

Chapter 9

ORDER GRANTING DEBTOR'S THIRTY-EIGHTH OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO CERTAIN CLAIMS

(Tax Refund Claims Not Subject to the Claims Process in this Bankruptcy Case)

Upon review of the thirty-eighth objection to claims (the "Objection"),⁴ of the Debtor, City of Detroit, Michigan (the "City"), seeking entry of an order disallowing and expunging each of the claims listed on Exhibit 2 to the Objection; and it appearing that this Court has jurisdiction over the Objection pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334 and Article VII of the Plan; and the Court having found that this is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2); and the Court having found that venue of this proceeding and the Objection in this District is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and it appearing that the relief requested in the Objection is in the best interests of the City, and its creditors; and due and proper notice of the Objection having been given as provided in the Objection; and it appearing that no other or further notice of the

⁴ Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Objection.

Objection need be given; and a hearing on the Objection having been held before the Court; and any objections or other responses to the Objection having been overruled or withdrawn; and the Court finding that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Objection and at the hearing establish just cause for the relief granted; and after due deliberation and good and sufficient cause appearing therefore;

IT IS ORDERED that:

- 1. The Objection is sustained to the extent set forth herein.
- 2. Each of the proofs of claim listed on Exhibit 2 annexed to the Objection is hereby disallowed and expunged in its entirety, pursuant to Section 502(b) of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 3. The City's claims agent is authorized to update the claims register to reflect the relief granted in this Order.
- 4. The City is authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted pursuant to this Order in accordance with the Objection.
- 5. Each claim and the objections by the City to each claim as addressed in the Objection and set forth in Exhibit 2 constitutes a separate contested matter as contemplated by Bankruptcy Rule 9014. This Order shall be deemed and constitute a separate order with respect to each such claim and, to the extent necessary under Bankruptcy Rules 7054 and 9014, constitutes a final judgment with respect to such claim, and the Court expressly determines that there is no just

reason for delay of the entry of the final judgment with respect to such claim. Any stay of this Order shall apply only to the contested matter that involves such creditor and for which such stay has been granted or may be in effect, and shall not act to stay the applicability or finality of this Order with respect to the other contested matters covered hereby, and further provided that the City shall have the right, but not the need, to submit a separate order with respect to contested matters or claims.

- 6. The City retains all of its rights to object, on any other basis, to any of the Claims identified on Exhibit 2.
- 7. Notice of the Objection as provided therein is good and sufficient notice of such objection, and the requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 3007(a) and the local rules of the Court are satisfied by such notice.
- 8. Nothing in this Order is intended to, shall constitute or shall be deemed to constitute the City's consent, pursuant to section 904 of the Bankruptcy Code, to this Court's interference with (a) any of the political or governmental powers of the City, (b) any of the property or revenues of the City or (c) the City's use or enjoyment of any income-producing property.

EXHIBIT 2: CLAIMS

Claim No.	Creditor Name and Address	Claim Amount	Classification	Date Filed
337	Chiquita N. Smith 12881 Rutland Detroit, MI, 48227	10,000.00	General Unsecured	12/23/2013
994	Clark Street Redevelopment I, LLC Honigman 660 Woodward Avenue Detroit, MI, 48226	UNLIQUIDATED	General Unsecured	02/17/2014
993	Clark Street Redevelopment III, LLC 2290 First National Building	UNLIQUIDATED	General Unsecured	02/17/2014
995	Clark Street Redevelopment IV, LLC Honigman 660 Woodward Avenue Detroit, MI, 48226	UNLIQUIDATED	General Unsecured	02/17/2014
988	Clark Street Redevelopment V, LLC Honigman 660 Woodward Avenue Detroit, MI, 48226	UNLIQUIDATED	General Unsecured	02/17/2014
987	Clark Street Redevelopment VI, LLC Honigman 660 Woodward Avenue Detroit, MI, 48226	UNLIQUIDATED	General Unsecured	02/17/2014
640	Erasmo & Guadalupe Hinojosa 6244 W Lafayette Detroit, MI, 48209	UNLIQUIDATED	Secured	01/22/2014

Claim No.	Creditor Name and Address	Claim Amount	Classification	Date Filed
986	Fk North, LLC Honigman 600 Woodward Avenue Detroit, MI, 48226	UNLIQUIDATED	General Unsecured	02/17/2014
991	Fk Park, LLC Honigman 660 Woodward Avenue Detroit, MI, 48226	UNLIQUIDATED	General Unsecured	02/17/2014
992	Fk South, LLC Honigman 660 Woodward Avenue Detroit, MI, 48226	UNLIQUIDATED	General Unsecured	02/17/2014
2024	Heckmann, Eric C 2108 S Delano St Saint Clair, MI, 48079	UNLIQUIDATED	Secured	02/20/2014
989	JC Office I, LLC Honigman 660 Woodward Avenue Detroit, MI, 48226	UNLIQUIDATED	General Unsecured	02/17/2014
1411	Property Owner James & Joyce Edwards 9152 Littlefield Detroit, MI, 48228	UNLIQUIDATED	General Unsecured	02/18/2014
195	Property Owner Leginia Chandler 509 Marston Detroit, MI, 48202	BLANK	General Unsecured	12/09/2013
2351	Property Owner 1159 Burlingame Detroit, MI, 48206	UNLIQUIDATED	Secured	02/21/2014
2648	Property Owner 119 W Euclid Detroit, MI, 48202-2036	1,517.00	General Unsecured	02/21/2014

Claim No.	Creditor Name and Address	Claim Amount	Classification	Date Filed
1243	Property Owner 13700 Castleton Detroit, MI, 48227	BLANK	General Unsecured	02/19/2014
148	Property Owner 14354 Archdale Detroit, MI, 48227	368.17	Secured	12/04/2013
1090	Property Owner 15356 Ilene Detroit, MI, 48238	BLANK	General Unsecured	02/18/2014
923	Property Owner 15820 Asbury Park Detroit, MI, 48235	3,302.96	General Unsecured	02/13/2014
661	Property Owner 16155 Coyle Detroit, MI, 48235	BLANK	Secured	01/30/2014
333	Property Owner 16731 Riverview Detroit, MI, 48219	10,000.00	General Unsecured	12/23/2013
692	Property Owner 17586 Freeland St Detroit, MI, 48235	BLANK	General Unsecured	02/03/2014
466	Property Owner 18113 Chicago Detroit, MI, 48228	42,000.00	Secured	12/31/2013
800	Property Owner 18200 Archdale Detroit, MI, 48235	28.22	General Unsecured	02/10/2014
618	Property Owner 18757 Linville Detroit, MI, 48236	BLANK	Secured	01/23/2014
417	Property Owner 19295 Riverview Detroit, MI, 48219	BLANK	General Unsecured	12/30/2013

Claim No.	Creditor Name and Address	Claim Amount	Classification	Date Filed
896	Property Owner 19300 Binder Detroit, MI, 48234	UNLIQUIDATED	Secured	02/14/2014
761	Property Owner 19439 Warrington Detroit, MI, 48221	BLANK	General Unsecured	02/03/2014
1072	Property Owner 19730 Ralston Detroit, MI, 48203	20,000.00	General Unsecured	02/18/2014
783	Property Owner 20029 Norwood Detroit, MI, 48234	587.96	Secured	02/04/2014
422	Property Owner 20476 Warrington Detroit, MI, 48221	1,266.00	Secured	12/31/2013
538	Property Owner 2140 Bryanston Crescent 40 Detroit, MI, 48207-3818	UNLIQUIDATED	General Unsecured	01/14/2014
536	Property Owner 2232 S La Salle Gardens Detroit, MI, 48206	UNLIQUIDATED	Priority	01/14/2014
211	Property Owner 5687 Proctor Detroit, MI, 48210	UNLIQUIDATED	Secured	12/12/2013
3347	Property Owner 5735 Lodewyck Detroit, MI, 48224	BLANK	Secured	02/21/2014
437	Property Owner 8098 House Detroit, MI, 48234	BLANK	General Unsecured	01/06/2014
596	Property Owner 9272 Harvard Rd Detroit, MI, 48224	UNLIQUIDATED	General Unsecured	01/24/2014

Claim No.	Creditor Name and Address	Claim Amount	Classification	Date Filed
184	Property Owner 9914 Yorkshire Detroit, MI, 48224	1,600.00	General Unsecured	12/09/2013
3520	Rex A. Husband 20434 Lichfield Detroit, MI, 48221	UNLIQUIDATED	General Unsecured	02/24/2014
2486	Seagraves, Vikki 5981 Harvard Rd. Detroit, MI, 48224	1,037.45	General Unsecured	02/21/2014
1063	Skylark Properties, LLC 10311 Cadieux Detroit, MI, 48224	10,000.00	General Unsecured	02/18/2014
1316	Theodore B and Mary Sue Sylwestrzak 32540 Old Post Rd Beverly Hills, MI 48025	UNLIQUIDATED	Secured	02/20/2014
1316	Theodore B and Mary Sue Sylwestrzak 32540 Old Post Rd Beverly Hills, MI 48025	UNLIQUIDATED	General Unsecured	02/20/2014
3177	Thomas L. Pasley 16534 Sorrento Detroit, MI, 48235	BLANK	General Unsecured	02/21/2014
990	Woodward Parking Co., Inc Honigman 660 Woodward Avenue Detroit, MI, 48226	UNLIQUIDATED	General Unsecured	02/17/2014

EXHIBIT 3: DECLARATION OF CHARLES RAIMI

In re:

Bankruptcy Case No. 13-53846

City of Detroit, Michigan,

Honorable Thomas J. Tucker

Debtor.

Chapter 9

<u>DECLARATION OF CHARLES RAIMI IN SUPPORT OF DEBTOR'S</u> THIRTY-EIGHTH OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO CERTAIN CLAIMS

(Tax Refund Claims Not Subject to the Claims Process in this Bankruptcy Case)

I, Charles Raimi, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief:

- 1. I am a Deputy Corporation Counsel for the City of Detroit. Unless otherwise stated in this Declaration, I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein.
- 2. The City's ongoing claims reconciliation process involves the collective effort of a team of employees assembled from personnel specifically familiar with the operations and liabilities of the City. This team works together and in conjunction with City's counsel, the City's financial advisor, and the City's claims agent, to review proofs of claim filed against the City.
- 3. In connection with the preparation of the Thirty-Eighth Omnibus Objection to Certain Claims (Tax Refund Claims Not Subject to the Claims

in this Bankruptcy Case) (the "Thirty-Eighth Omnibus Objection"), the City reviewed the claims at issue, as described on Exhibit 2 of the Thirty-Eighth Omnibus Objection.

- 4. The City believes that each of the claims on Exhibit 2 should be disallowed and expunged because each such claim asserts a tax refund claim that is not subject to the claims process in this bankruptcy case.
- 5. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Charles Raim

In re:

Bankruptcy Case No. 13-53846

City of Detroit, Michigan,

Honorable Thomas J. Tucker

Debtor.

Chapter 9

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on March 10, 2016, he electronically filed the foregoing Omnibus Objection to Certain Claims (the "Omnibus Objection") with the Clerk of the Court which sends notice by operation of the court's electronic filing service to all ECF participants registered to receive notice in this case. The City has engaged a Noticing Agent, which will serve the Omnibus Objection on the Claimants listed therein at the address set forth by each of the claimants on its respective proof of claim and on all parties requesting notices listed on the Master Service List, and file a subsequent Proof of Service after it has performed the service.

DATED: March 10, 2016

By: /s/ Marc N. Swanson

Marc N. Swanson

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