

GM-Delphi retiree protest

IMPORTANT MESSAGE RE: PARTICIPATION IN THE PEACEFUL PROTEST AT GM HQ DETROIT 6/25/2009.

Message regarding final arrangements, and signs being prepared:

THE PLAN:

- **Protest date - Thursday June 25th, Noon - 2:30 PM**
- **Place – Outside GM World HQ, 300 Renaissance Center, Detroit, MI 48226. We will march on the sidewalk facing Jefferson Avenue. It is just east of Woodward Avenue**
- **Cause - Any Delphi Bankruptcy Solution must treat UAW and Salaried Retirees Equitably**
- **Protest will be Peaceful. We will focus on gathering media support for our cause.**
- **Parking - There is ample parking around the Renaissance Center. The bad news is it is not free.**
- **Permit to Protest - per the Detroit City Clerk we do not need one as long as we keep moving.**
- **Car Pools - To share the costs and driving time, please call your retired friends and arrange.**
- **We will be professional with any signage or actions. We want to protest with dignity. Details and ideas are below.**
- **Spouses are welcome. We are trying to impress with numbers and trust me your spouses are impacted.**
- **Please consult the www.DelphiSalariedRetirees.org web site for any updates on details.**
- **Restrooms are available in the lower floors of the Renaissance Center. There are shops and restaurants as well. In the unlikely event that we are refused access, there are restrooms a few blocks west of GM at Hart Plaza.**
- **If you can participate or help with preparation (in Clarkston MI area) please contact Ken Hollis kbhollis@aol.com 248-318-3503**

It is important that we make a good showing both in numbers and the story we present. I have had well over 400 emails. All of course are supportive, many from out of town thanking us for having this protest. I have no way of knowing how many people will be there. I do know there are people coming to participate with us from New York, Ohio and Indiana. Thank you all for committing to participate.

SIGNS:

We want to be professional. We don't want our message to get lost by any media focusing on an errant message on any sign. Not everyone needs to carry a sign. For the Troy protest a group made 30 signs at my house. Some of those signs can be re-used, but not all. I will bring the ones I think are still appropriate.

Our focus has changed a bit from reminding Delphi about "Excellence Means Honoring Commitments" to wanting **GM to treat us fairly and equitably with the hourly retirees**. This time we will be in front of GM HQ, and a slight re-targeting of the message is appropriate. Our primary message is that **"Any Delphi bankruptcy Solution 0A must treat UAW and Salaried Retirees Equitably"**. That slogan is certainly a candidate for a sign. I may make a few signs, but I would encourage participants in the protest to make one if you'd like.

We are also trying to appeal to the salaried workers at GM and everywhere that if this is allowed to

happen to us it could just as easily happen to them.

As far as sign content, we need to **avoid** signs like "Don't Buy GM Cars" or "Boycott GM Cars". Obviously if things don't go our way we can all make the decision to do just that later, but we don't want to threaten as much as I'd like them to realize that we can do that. We are trying to get them to do the right thing, not alienate them right off the bat.

Examples of signs I think are OK:

"Do the Right Thing"

"Do We Need a Contract for Commitments to be Honored"

"Treat Hourly and Salaried Retirees Equitable"

"Is This Our Reward for 30 Plus Years of Dedicated Service"

"Worked More Than 2/3 of my Career for GM"

"Can You Afford to Lose 15,000 Customers

and Their Spouses

and Their Kids

and Their Friends"

"GM Salaried Workers...Are You Next?"

Examples of signs I think we should avoid:

"Don't Buy GM Cars"

"Boycott GM Cars"

Also, any signs with personal names (i.e. names of executives) are to be avoided.

I would also request that on one side of your sign, if you make one, you indicate your total years of Service and how many with GM and where you are from. For me it will read:

32+ Years of Service

23 With GM

Michigan

We are trying to make the connection with the media and anyone watching that Delphi is not just a random company but has its roots with GM. Remember that most people have no idea that we were all GM employees that were spun off. Association with GM is not just a straw we are grasping at, it is who we all hired in with.

I got my sign materials from the Dollar Store. They sell foam board for about a buck each. You can get furring strips from Home Depot or Lowes or your local lumber yard for less than a buck. Use a staple gun or glue gun or both or you don't even need a stick. Just make sure you can read it and all words are spelled correctly.

See you on Thursday, in time to start walking at noon.

Ken
