



Kwame Kenyatta questions Detroit's tech contracts

BY NAOMI R. PATTON FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

October 14, 2008 11:46 AM

Detroit City Councilman Kwame Kenyatta plans to call for an investigation of technology contracts awarded by the city in the past six months after the council voted down a \$1-million contract for a company not based in the city of Detroit.

Kenyatta said his staff had discovered Harrison Technology Consulting was not certified as a Detroit-based company, disqualifying it from receiving the contract. He also said he went to an address listed for the business, 333 W. Fort, and found an empty office.

Jay Harrison, president of the company, said he's leasing space from Security Communications Alert Network at the Fort office and the lease expires at the end of the month.

"I'm extremely upset," Harrison said of the council's actions Tuesday. "The things that were said are completely false."

Harrison said he developed software with the city's Information Technology Service to produce the Detroit Police Management Awareness Software to comply with a federal consent decree.

He said he plans to defend his qualifications at the Internal Operations Committee meeting Thursday and at the full council meeting Tuesday. According to state records, Harrison's company is based in Walled Lake.

In July, FBI agents searched Security Communications Alert Network, which carried out a \$4-million city contract to install federally funded security screens and cameras in downtown Detroit, as part of a federal investigation into corruption of city officials.

Sreenivas Cherukuri, appointed by ex-Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick as Information Technology Service director, said he also was surprised by Kenyatta's allegations.

"From our standpoint, our contracts are on the up-and-up," Cherukuri said.

Kenyatta said after Tuesday's meeting he will not reconsider the contract in the Internal Operations Committee and said Mayor Ken Cockrel Jr. should reconsider keeping Cherukuri as the head of the department.

Contact NAOMI R. PATTON at 313-223-4485 or npatton@freepress.com.

p. 1/1

[Back to Top](#)

[Email Story](#)

[Home](#)

[About Us](#)

[Help](#)

[Click here for full site](#)

Copyright (c) 2009
freep.com