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State Names Emergency Financial Manager To Benton Harbor

Christine Aranyos Reporting

Detroit's former CFO is Benton Harbor's new Emergency Financial Manager. Certified Public Accountant and Wayne State University professor Joseph Harris will be in charge of picking up the pieces of the local city's finances. The Treasury Department's Local Emergency Financial Assistance Loan Board appointed Harris Thursday morning. Harris has ten years of local government management experience and has served as an Adjunct Accounting Professor at three Michigan universities. The Associated Press reports Harris will begin work in the city in mid-April and will have sweeping powers, including hiring and firing, renegotiating labor contracts and selling properties. Governor Jennifer Granholm instructed the board last week to place an EFM in Benton Harbor, after she rejected the city's appeal of a state takeover.

Photo: The Detroit News

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