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*Pension Finance and the Fall and Rise of Detroit City Government.* Preliminary report.

In 2014, the city of Detroit Emergency Manager laid out in bankruptcy court that the city pension systems faced a nearly 4 billion underfunded status. In the process of the bankruptcy trial, the city government, along with mediators, negotiated an impressive feat of securing foundation and state government support for a bail out of the city of Detroit two pension systems. In exchange for such a bailout, the employee unions and retiree agreed not to go after the city art collection, arguably worth billions, in the bankruptcy process to receive payoffs and make the pension whole. While this story received widespread media attention, the more interesting story are the financial details of the pensions both pre and post-bankruptcy including the issuance of controversial certification of participation obligations of 1 billion to help shore the underfunding of the pension system at that time. This talk will focus on the details of the pre and post-bankruptcy Detroit pension systems. (Received January 19, 2015)