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## **Amid Divestment Protests, More Cities Explore Public Banks.**

Philadelphia City Council Member Cindy Bass was already thinking about how to cut the city's ties with Wells Fargo when bank CEO John Stumpf testified last September before the U.S. Senate. Questioning Stumpf about the bank's fraudulent accounts scandal, Senator Elizabeth Warren said, "So you haven't resigned, you haven't returned a single nickel of your personal earnings, you haven't fired a single senior executive. Instead, your definition of accountable is to push the blame to your low-level employees who don't have the money for a fancy PR firm to defend themselves."

Search the U.S. Department of Justice website for "Wells Fargo" and "settlement" and you'll get a litany of results: a \$25 billion settlement for foreclosure abuse (a record), \$1.2 billion for improper mortgage lending practices, and \$184.3 million in compensation for steering black and Latino borrowers into predatory subprime mortgages. The 2016 hearing was the moment when the wheels fell off the stagecoach.

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NEXT CITY

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