

Russo, Stephanie

From: Gary Votes [garyvotes@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2009 3:35 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Cc: D2ogg1@aol.com
Subject: Re: Request to Present to the DUAB on January 6th

Thank you, Ms. Russo.

I will email the information prior to the meeting. I believe the Governor has given the citizens of Gary some encouragement to get involved in the leadership of their city and our presentation will be focused on how this objective might be accomplished.

Richard Barnes, Ph.D.
Miller Citizens' Corporation (MCC)
739 N Montgomery St
Gary, IN 46403

From: "Russo, Stephanie" <srusso@sba.in.gov>
To: Gary Votes <garyvotes@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wed, December 30, 2009 1:37:00 PM
Subject: RE: Request to Present to the DUAB on January 6th

Dear Dr. Barnes,

Thank you for your message and request. The public will be allowed to speak but due to the extensive testimony received at the hearings last year and the submissions through both regular and electronic mail, the Board will limit testimony from the public to 3 minutes per person. I suggest you forward material in advance of the meeting so the Board members will have time to review prior to your receiving your remarks.

Thank you.

Stephanie N. Russo
Executive Assistant to Ryan Kitchell and Chris Ruhl
Indiana Office of Management and Budget
State House Room 215 | Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: 317.232.5617 | Fax: 317.233.3323 |
Email: srusso@sba.in.gov

From: Gary Votes [mailto:garyvotes@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2009 12:44 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Cc: D2ogg1@aol.com; Dan Lowery; Carole Carlson; Jerry Davich; Jon Seidel; Carol Smith
Subject: Request to Present to the DUAB on January 6th

Good morning,

We are preparing a presentation to the Distressed Units Appeals Board for your January 6th meeting and respectfully request that we be placed on your agenda.

I will be representing the Miller Citizen's Corporation of Gary, Indiana and would appreciate an opportunity to present new information that would inform board members prior to making their decision to grant the City of Gary further property tax cap exemptions. I am a vice president of the MCC and was recently appointed by the board to head the DUAB Committee.

Would you please put the MCC on the agenda for a 10 minute presentation to be followed by questions and answers from your board.

We are opposed to property tax cap exemptions for the City of Gary and will make a presentation based on the negative financial and economic impact this second year exemption would have on the citizens of our community.

- We will provide demographics and data on the City of Gary from Lake County and other government sources.
- We will also provide reports from published scholarly research and academic studies showing the impact of higher property taxes on the economic viability of a community.
- We also have questions about the reliability and validity of the PFM report inasmuch as they did not have all of the financial data needed to make an accurate report as financial monitor.

These are items not included in the PFM study and I think you will find our report extremely relevant to any decision the DUAB might make.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Barnes, Ph.D.
Gary, Indiana
219 938-7360

Russo, Stephanie

From: Linda Simon [lindajsimon@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2009 10:43 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Gary, IN - distressed unit appeals board

I am writing to protest Gary's request for another exception to the property tax caps in Indiana. My family is struggling to pay its bills. Our income has been down for each of the last two years as a result of the financial crisis in our country. Yet, because Gary is unwilling to accept that times have changed, our family's property taxes were dramatically higher than those paid by other Indiana citizens. With the property tax cap in place, our property taxes should have been approximately \$5,000 this year (and would have been that much or less any where else in Indiana). However, for the dubious privilege of calling Gary home, our property taxes were \$8,000. We are forced to pay extra property taxes in order to have high crime, low city services, poor schools and a city government that refuses to live within its means. I lament the sad facts that have brought Gary to this position (a loss of almost half its population in 30 years and a loss of many many businesses). However, the only way to turn that around is to keep the businesses and people that remain and to tax them fairly. If we citizens and businesses of Gary continue to be taxed at higher rates than those in the rest of the state, what choice will we have but to move.

So, please recognize that Gary must learn to live within its means. It must be forced to consolidate services with county services. That is the only path to salvation for our city.

Sincerely,
Linda Simon
Gary, Indiana

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Russo, Stephanie

From: Mark Christopher [ktw58@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2009 12:14 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Say NO to Gary DUAB Appeal

Greetings,

I am writing again this year in opposition to the City of Gary's request before the DUAB to lift property tax caps. I believe you have heard all of the arguments in opposition to the City's appeal, so I will not belabor you with a rehash of what you already know. I would just like to ask you to take a hard look, if you haven't already, at just how poorly this City has been run over the past decade, and how little they plan to change. Take a look at the really big picture. People and businesses continue to leave. Crime continues unabated. Corruption rules. As citizens, we are of course responsible for working and encouraging our neighbors to make the necessary changes. But as the holders of the purse strings, so to speak, the DUAB MUST NOT continue to enable this utterly incompetent and self-serving administration in its unceasing despoliation of our once-proud city. A fiscal monitor was mandated, yet the administration has stated openly that they do not plan to follow its recommendations, or at least not all of them. It is only by forcing the City to live within its means - like every other community in Indiana - that we will be able to encourage investment, redevelopment, and any semblance of pride. I therefore entreat you to deny the City of Gary's appeal and KEEP THE CAPS in place!

Best Regards,
Kurt Weiss
Gary, IN

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Russo, Stephanie

From: The Veld Family [gkdcn@netnitco.net]
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2009 12:42 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Gary

Distressed Unit Appeals Board -

We would just like to voice our opinion that Gary should NOT be granted any relief from the state-mandated tax caps. When the report from Public Financial Management came out, Gary officials could only offer reasons why they should not follow most of the recommendations proving they are not willing to do what is necessary to improve their situation.

Our major point of contention though is why only Gary out of all the thousands of towns in the State should be singled out for any type of help. The rest of us have to live within our means so Gary should also.

- Gene and Kathy Veld

Russo, Stephanie

From: Gregory Shade [gs23@ntrs.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2009 2:29 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: City of Gary - Distressed Unit Appeals Board

Stephanie -

It is my understanding that the City of Gary is requesting relief from the property tax cap again this year. As a twelve year resident and taxpayer of the City of Gary, I strongly object to Gary's request for relief from the property tax cap. As a community, we have seen our tax bills increase by unbelievable amounts. For instance, my property taxes went from about \$3,000 per year to \$18,000 per year before the property tax cap went into effect. Our community needs the City of Gary to be subject to the property tax cap or else many residents will be forced to move out of the city. I believe the solution to Gary's financial problems requires a serious review of the City's budget and the implementation of difficult cuts in spending. I urge you to reject Gary's request for relief from the property tax cap.

Thank you -

Gregory Shade
8901 Lake Shore Drive
Gary, IN 46403

Russo, Stephanie

From: connolley325@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2009 2:40 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Gary IN property tax cap exception request

Dear Ms. Stephanie Russo,

I am a property owner in Gary, Indiana and I am writing to oppose Gary, Indiana's request for relief from the Distressed Unit Appeals Board. I know that Gary is facing difficult financial circumstances. However, so are the residents and business owners of Gary. Last year, my property taxes were significantly higher than those of residents elsewhere in Indiana. I cannot afford to continue to pay higher property taxes. The only solution for Gary is to live within its means. If it continues to force its remaining citizens and business owners to pay higher taxes, it will only continue to decline.

Please protect the homeowners of Gary and deny Gary's request.

Thanks,

Elizabeth Connolley
Gary, Indiana

Russo, Stephanie

From: Nora's Miller Email List [noraglenn@threedog.net.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2009 7:43 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: posted on www.threedog.net.com/millerlist

Importance: High

31 December 2009 18:38 CST | Posted by noraglenn

I TOTALLY AGREE WITH MCC! MCC, OF WHICH I'M A MEMBER, FOUGHT FOR THESE PROPERTY TAX CAPS!!

Contact Stephanie Russo at srusso@sba.in.gov ng

Miller group will oppose city tax plea

Comments

December 31, 2009
BY ANDY GRIMM, (219) 648-3073

CROWN POINT -- Gary's most active neighborhood group will protest the city's request for relief from state-mandated tax caps.

The city can survive without an estimated \$15.5 million in tax revenue lost to shortfalls from the statewide "circuit breaker" on property taxes, says Richard Barnes, a resident of the city's lakefront Miller Beach neighborhood.

Have you got something to say?

Residents may e-mail comments to Stephanie Russo at srusso@sba.in.gov or mail testimony to the Distressed Unit Appeals Board, 200 W. Washington, State House Room 212, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

A delegation from Miller Citizens Corporation, a decades-old community group based in Miller Beach, will attend a Jan. 6 hearing before the state Distressed Unit Appeals Board where the city will request an exemption from a statewide "circuit breaker" that limits property tax bills to no more than 3 percent of the assessed value of the property.

The MCC will recommend ending oversight by Public Financial Management, a private fiscal monitor hired by the city at the state's request, Barnes said.

PFM has recommended Gary continue to get relief from the tax caps for two more years.

The MCC will recommend getting rid of the fiscal monitor and forcing the city to live within revenues generated with the caps, Barnes said.

"We can do it ourselves. What's the monitor monitoring at this point?" Barnes said. "PFM did not have the information they needed to make a recommendation, and they aren't familiar with the demographics and makeup of Gary."

Higher taxes will harm Gary more than the reductions in spending and cuts to city services, Barnes said.

"If the taxes are higher, people vote with their feet, and they move," Barnes said. "That lowers property values and hurts the city more."

City residents saw rates rise 85 percent for the Gary Sanitary District for sewer service and a new monthly fee for trash collection when Mayor Rudy Clay hired a private company to handle garbage pickup, Barnes said.

The MCC has sued to block the trash collection fee.

The MCC, and any member of the public can testify at the hearing, will have three minutes to make their presentation, said Cris Johnston of the DUAB.

Russo, Stephanie

From: Chester Baran [chet1bar@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 01, 2010 8:07 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie

Ms. Russo,

As a resident of Miller Beach in Gary, Indiana I oppose granting the city of Gary an allowance above the property tax cap. What provisions they have made in the last year to control spending and make it transparent to the citizens of Gary have been minimal. Unless it is put under strict constraints the municipal government will not design a program that will establish fiscal responsibility. The administration keeps reducing vital services as an example of the straits they are in instead of eliminating the fat that surrounds them. The fire department, the police department and the school system keep getting reduced without getting at root causes---high salaries for administration. I urge you to deny Gary's request.

Sincerely,

Chester Baran
8800 Maple Ave
Gary, IN 46403
219-384-4863

Hotmail: Free, trusted and rich email service. [Get it now.](#)

Russo, Stephanie

From: Vanzo, Dawn E [devanzo@hammond.k12.in.us]
Sent: Friday, January 01, 2010 1:24 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: DUAB meeting with Gary, IN

This is a simple plea from a person near reirement age that has attempted to be self sufficient and provide a retirement income for herself.

Approximately five years ago I purchased and rehabbed two single family units to use a rental units in the Miller Beach section of Gary Indiana. The theory was simply ,to provide enough income to pay my own property tax from the income that they would generate. Since that time the tax situation has become so unstable that no one can predict what the future can bring. I believe my story has been repeated over and over again in this city.

We are caught between a rock and a hard place. The city has passed on its previous bloated expenses to the public. More people are unable to pay their property taxes lowering the collection rate. The city shifts its services to private collection, Gary Sanitary Board as an example, and the cost of living goes up more. Rentals try to keep pace by gently increasing rents but the result is that no one can afford to keep current on rent payments and the landlords can't get delinquent tenants out for 3-4 months due to backed up court cases. Then we again attempt to rent the unit and we are in competetion with all the foreclosures that surround the area. We are losing one of the most viable businesses this city has.... Rental units....

We are concerned about public safety but the police we have are manngng desks in the Gary Police Department due to cutbacks in civilian personnel that can be paid a lot less for handling phones and office work. This city needs help and some strategic planning for the future that current city officials are not prepared for.

I do not feel that allowing Gary to add on taxes to the current tax bill will speed up the process of educating government officials. If the DUAB allows for a temporary tax I sincerely hope this will be minimal and the last time. Business owners want to stay in Gary but they can't if they are forced to pay for the mistakes of all those around them.

Sincerely,
Dawn Vanzo-Gessler
Gary, IN

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Russo, Stephanie

From: dwing008@aol.com
Sent: Friday, January 01, 2010 6:25 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: tax cap

please do not give any relief to the city of Gary from the distressed unit appeals. The city of Gary has misused and wasted the tax money they do get from us and now the Mayor wants to ignore the financial advisors advise. No, I say do not send good money after bad come in here and see how it is used. then Give the city money but only if you can help determine where it gets spent. Deborah Weiss voter and tax payer at: 8123 Oak Ave Gary, In, 46403

DEC, 26, 2009

DEPT. OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE
ATTN, MS. STEPHANIE RUSSO EXEC. ASST.
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
100 N. SENATE ST. N-1058-B
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

DEAR BOARD MEMBERS,

AS YOU CONSIDER THE CITY OF GARY PETITION "FOR RELIEF"
FROM TAX CAPS AND STATE LAW — OUR CITIZENS PETITION,
"FOR RELIEF" FROM CONFISCATORY TAXATION AND CITY
WASTE!

EVERYONE RECOGNIZES THE LONG TIERED CRISIS, WHICH
IS REPRESENTED BY THE CITY IN THEIR PETITION, EQUALLY
RECOGNIZED, IS THE PAINFUL ACTION AND INACTION OF THE
CITY TO AFFECT IT, NOW, AFTER AGONIZING AND SUFFERING
LOSS, CITIZENS AND OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY ARE UNITED
AND READY FOR CHANGE IN GARY, INDIANA,

YOUR DECISION, UPON WHICH PLEA "FOR RELIEF" IS
GRANTED, WILL NOT END THE CHALLENGE OF THE CHANGE
WHICH IS REQUIRED, BUT, THE HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY
PRESENTED TO YOU AT THIS TIME, MAY SINGULARLY AD-
VANCE THE POSSIBILITY — AND HERALD A NEW BEGINNING
FOR OUR GREAT CITY.

I URGE YOU, DO NOT FALTER WITH ANY HALF MEASURE
OR TIMID REACTION TO OUR CITIZENS DESPERATE NEED,
WE DO NOT ASK FOR ANY SPECIAL CONSIDERATION,
RATHER, THAT YOU APPLY THE SENSIBLE TAX LIMITATION
REPRESENTED BY THE TAX CAPS AND HOLD FAITH AND
CONFIDENCE IN OUR CITIZENS TO RESPOND.

SINCERELY



JIM NOWACKI

PO BOX 2571

GARY INDIANA 46403

December 29, 2009

BILL KOSARCH
728 N. LAKE ST.
GARY, IN
46403

Dear Appeals Board or Representative,

This communication is to relate my opinion concerning the Gary, In. petition.

As a resident of Gary for 58 years (DOB 05/27/51) I oppose the city's petition for extraordinary tax consideration.

Only by denying discriminatory treatment will Gary be compelled to behave in a physically responsible way.

All taxing authorities must adjust to the tax cap. Gary is no exception.

For many decades administrators of the civil city, clerk, court and city council have acted without spending restraint.

Gary authorities have assumed the posture of isolated arrogance.

It is time to deny the Gary petition and let us taxpayers conform to the enacted state legislation.

Regards
Bill Kosarch

Russo, Stephanie

From: Ted Prettyman [mcctedp@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Saturday, January 02, 2010 12:39 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Cc: Douglas Grimes; Wendy Prettyman; Tom Eaton; Gary Votes; Carol Smith; Eric Reaves
Subject: Gary's petition for tax-cap relief

Greetings:

If you have already received a copy of the City of Gary's excuse-ridden and obstructionist response to the monitor's report you already have ample evidence of the City's attitude toward stewardship of tax revenues and efficient government.

No one here expects the ideal; However, something approaching a positive attitude towards good government would certainly be welcome.

It is important that the City of Gary not be given any additional resources until competent stewardship and good government is in place.

Thank you for all your work.

Ted Prettyman,
Resident and property owner
Gary, Indiana

Russo, Stephanie

From: AShafton@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, January 02, 2010 4:29 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Property Tax Cap

Please do not raise eliminate the property tax cap -- we can't afford it.

Tony Shafton
6131 Hemlock Avenue
Miller Beach, IN 46403
(219) 939-2050

Russo, Stephanie

From: aharton@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, January 02, 2010 5:39 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Property Taxes

Please I am begging you do not give Mayor Clay any more money. Have the city sell all the property that the city is holding on to so we can have other people paying tax in this city.

Antoinette Harton
6851 Ironwood Ave
Gary, IN 46403

Russo, Stephanie

From: doug grady [tightjibbs@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 02, 2010 5:46 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: tax cap

Hello, I own a house on maple ave. in the Miller Beach area. I have lived here for about 5 years. If the tax cap is lifted **I WILL NOT PAY THE TAXES AND WALK AWAY FROM A HOUSE THAT IS BEING REMODELED. YES THAT MEANS ANOTHER VACANT HOUSE SITTING IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD. MAYOR CLAY AND THE OTHER INCOMPETENT MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF GARY KNOW NOTHING OF RUNNING A CITY. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SHOULD STEP IN BEFORE MORE OF US RESIDENTS MOVE FROM A CITY THAT CAN'T PROVIDE BASIC SERVICES UNDER A PLANNED BUDGET. TO HELL WITH GARY AND TAX INCREASES.**

Russo, Stephanie

From: Jonathan brown [jbrownconstruction@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 02, 2010 7:09 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: say no to higher taxes and fire Public Financial Management

I'm a Gary resident that had hoped the oversight of the company Public Financial Management would mean that the City of Gary would have to live within their means. All this group has done has cost us more money and has suggested that we pay more in taxes. This has to stop.

I think we would be better off if Gary is forced into bankruptcy and a federal court steps in to assess all our contracts and expenses. For all the increase in taxes I've been paying and will continue to pay as long as I keep my home here; I have little to show for it. I don't even have a trash can, and this is going on four years of asking for one. The snow on my street is never plowed, and crime has been rampant. ENOUGH!

Receivership is the only answer to end mismanagement, corruption, and poor public services.

Respectfully,
Jonathan Brown
800 N. Rush St.
Gary, IN 46403

Russo, Stephanie

From: eric dean spruth [spruth1@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 02, 2010 10:15 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: tax-caps?

Please do not change the property tax-cap... we are really stuggling as it is to just get by hear in Gary, Indiana Spruth Family

Russo, Stephanie

From: Sandra Frazier [lexicon2000@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Saturday, January 02, 2010 11:00 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Cc: Sandra Frazier
Subject: Relief from State-Mandated Tax Caps

Dear Stephanie Russo:

I have been a Gary, Indiana resident for over 40 years. I have lived in the Miller section of Gary for over 30 years. Miller has afforded me a nice place to live compared to neighboring Chicago. With that stated, a higher tax liability will make it unbearable to reach the proposed mandate. If it were at all possible, find other means to help support Gary's government, but certainly not at the expense of those who reside in Miller, who at limited incomes or lack thereof, cannot afford the exorbitant tax hikes.

Thank you.
Sandra Frazier

Russo, Stephanie

From: gloriaseed@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, January 03, 2010 3:25 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Cc: Atkins, Christopher D.; mceaton@aol.com; teamhammond@yahoo.com
Subject: City of Gary Petition for Relief from Property Tax Caps

In the course of appealing my own property taxes I noticed a dramatic discrepancy in the assessment ratios paid by some homeowners and the amount paid by others. Please see the chart below. The numbers were obtained from websites of Lake County Assessor and Department of Local Government Finance. The information is a matter of public record and easily verified.

The assessment ratio on my own modest home in the Miller area of Gary is approximately 97%, but State Representative Charlie Brown and his immediate neighbors situated on Lake Michigan, pay an average of 64%. My request for a fairer assessment ratio was refused, whilst the assessment ratio on 9437 Lake Shore Drive (purchased within five days of mine), was reduced from 85% to 63%. I have asked Calumet Township Assessor, Booker Blumenberg, Jr. for a written explanation - none to date.

If Charlie Brown and his five neighbors were fairly and properly assessed (even at) 90% of value it would increase property tax revenue for the City of Gary by **\$619,900**, per year!

Please deny the City of Gary relief of any kind, until this unfair possibly politically motivated behavior, and continuing fiscal irresponsibility is investigated and/or corrected.

In the meantime, past action taken by the Distressed Unit Appeals Board, still forces many ordinary and low-income Lake County homeowners to subsidize the wealthy.

Gloria Seed
tel: 219-939-6263

<i>Lake Shore Drive:</i>	<i>Identical Townhomes</i>			<i>Assessment year 2008/pay 2009</i>		
address	9427	9429	9437	9439	9447	9449
purchased	11/15/05	1996	4/15/06	2001	1998	2004
sales price	\$369,900	(unknown)	\$397,000	(unknown)	(unknown)	(unknown)
value	\$397,000	\$397,000	\$397,000	\$397,000	\$397,000	\$397,000
assessment	\$247,300	\$252,900	\$250,300	\$253,600	\$247,300	\$272,500
ratio	62%	64%	63%	64%	62%	69%

Assessment ratio of 90% would equal $\$357,300 \times 6 = \$2,143,800$

Present assessment = $\$1,523,900$

*Annual difference: **$\$619,900$***

Russo, Stephanie

From: KRISeKRIS00@aol.com
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2010 10:45 AM
To: KRISeKRIS00@aol.com
Cc: Russo, Stephanie; Rushenberg, Tim; Johnston, Christopher; rkitchell@sba.in.gov
Subject: Letter to the DUAB 1/2/2010

Dear DUAB members:

Gary is not just the city in Indiana with the highest tax rate. It is not just the city in which its residents receive the worst level of services statewide. It is not just the city with the highest murder rate in the country. It is not just a city where the school system generally graduates less than 40% of its students. It is not just a city where the actual unemployment rate exceeds 30%.

It is a city with all of these aforementioned problems, but worse yet, it is a city with virtually no local economy by which its residents and members of the business community are able to support the excessive costs associated with its continued operation.

And to further exacerbate these problems, and add insult to injury regarding the highest tax rate, many property owners are beset with horribly errant assessments on their real property which can in some cases yield an effective tax rate of 100% or more of the property's actual value.

All of the problems above make for an unsustainable situation for residents and property owners. So, while PFM was able to identify opportunities for certain cost savings through consolidation and elimination of departments, as well as thinning the ranks of the city's bloated and inert payroll, they seem to do so, in the vacuum of consideration of an ever-shrinking tax base. One that is shrinking so fast that it will be reduced fast enough to affect their most recent of calculations.

Firstly, their income projections as presented are based on faulty data. And moreover, what they do not consider is the increased defaults which will be caused by their suggestion that the City be allowed relief from the DUAB by means of relief from the State-imposed caps--relief which only comes on the already-strained backs of local taxpayers. So effectively what they've given us in this report is an instruction manual for divvying up an ever-shrinking pie. The problem is, that no matter how thin one slices the pie wedges, there'll not be enough to go around.

And as already noticed by the DUAB, besides what remains of the steel industry, our only local industry IS government. So, as this industry is rapidly downsized by their recommendations, we should then surely expect what little bit of the local economy that does exist; which is likely based on this "industry"; will also see a rapid collapse. And as this industry collapses or implodes, one should anticipate even greater defaults--making all income projections more inaccurate yet. However, that said, I certainly don't suggest allowing any further perpetuation of this tax-dollar-gobbling, service-not-providing entity. To the contrary. Put it out of its misery. Put it out of our misery fast. Don't dilly-dally.

If the State rejects the City's plea for more relief; and if the hierarchy of city government does collapse under its own weight; then good riddance! In the 2 years that PFM suggests that the taxpayers continue to pay for its costly life-support treatment, we could instead rebuild the entire thing properly; efficiently, from the ground up. There is no benefit to anyone in the city--except the inner circle of cronies and relatives--to maintain this dying entity. It serves no purpose that can be justified by its outrageous costs. Certainly our money could be far better managed and spent far more wisely. The City has proven themselves time and time again incapable of managing our money wisely. On the contrary; they have over and over and over again demonstrated unrivaled foolishness and abject

fiscal irresponsibility in all important matters pertaining of the stewardship of the public's funds and the public's trust. You cannot reward them for this horrid behavior! What message does that send them? That they've been doing a fine job? You know that nothing could be farther from the truth. That they should change their ways? How could it send that signal? (besides the fact that they have no idea how to change and do things properly)

It is almost incomprehensible to imagine that the State seems poised--at least if they plan to follow PFM's recommendation--to give the City more of our hard-earned money to misspend and mishandle--and in numerous documentable instances; misappropriate. ("Misappropriate" is a euphemism which they do not deserve. Steal, embezzle, defraud, are far more appropriate verbs to describe what passes for "fiscal responsibility" in the City of Gary.)

While we do appreciate PFM documenting what many pretty much knew all along; and realizing that, while you may not have believed the citizens who voiced their objections to giving the City taxpayer-funded relief last year; many of the same people who objected last year understand that you needed proof of the fiscal malfeasance, misfeasance, and nonfeasance. At least PFM documented a good portion of it, but certainly not the entire extent of it. I would like to characterize their report as a "good start"--the tip of the iceberg.

What good will it do anyone to let it flounder along for two more years. It's already been determined that it's slated for elimination; so why wait? To be nice? To be polite? To be politically correct? How PC is it while people lose their homes? How PC is it if another 50 people get murdered next year? What this city needs is some tough love. It can no longer afford to be coddled and handled with kid gloves.

Now you know the extent of the problem. Don't shrink from the task at hand. Who do you think you are doing a favor to by allowing this condition to continue? Not the taxpayers--that's for certain. The only ones that seem to benefit by the decision you appear to hand down, are the ones that are the cause of the problem.

Maybe last year you could say you didn't know. You had that excuse to fall back on. But not this year! This year you have ample data to make the proper decision. This year there is no excuse. Maybe last year, you didn't know who to believe; the City or the remonstrators. Now, the decision should be clear.

Hopefully, PFM's suggestion--that the City be granted 2 more years of relief--is not a forgone conclusion. How can they even suggest that? They, as much as anyone, know what an absolute disaster the operations of the city are. Do they really think that two more years will change anything? It needs to be stopped now--dead in its tracks.

It appears, while reading PFM's report, that they--on numerous occasions--sympathize with members of the administration, and wrongly presume that these are well-intentioned individuals that are just victims of an unfortunate set of circumstances. They seem to have missed it in its entirety, making the observation that the "City of Gary" is a thoroughly corrupt organization of unparalleled proportions. Plenty of others seem to already know this. How is it that they missed this completely? Surely citizens' comments and emails brought this condition to their attention. How could they completely overlook--at least not mention it in their report--that several of the units of government covered by their report are under federal investigation? That the investigation of local government in Gary and Lake County requires an entire special unit of the federal government? Here convicted felons aren't ostracized, here they are rewarded--embraced. Here, they are welcomed back into the fold with open arms upon their release from the penitentiary. The whole thing is turned on its head. It would seem

that one wouldn't have to scratch their head too long to detect a problem in all of this. This is not your father's troubled city government simply beset by hard times. This is as bad as it gets!

This is not to say that there are not many good ideas and suggestions contained within PFM's report; but the problem lies in that all of these solutions have come too late. If this initiative was undertaken 5 years ago, well maybe then, we'd be able to implement them over these relatively comfortable timelines. But not now, now there is no more time. No comfort zone during which to slowly implement these suggested initiatives. Time's up! Time's long past up.

The only solution at this point is complete receivership overseen by a group of trustees. Maybe that could be PFM. Maybe it could be a committee developed by the DUAB. But it cannot and should not be the current administration. In essence, by granting the City the relief they request--and the relief that PFM apparently wants to see them receive--the State is allowing the foxes to continue guarding the henhouse. And as such, there'll be no requirement for specific performance. The problem is, not only do they refuse to acknowledge that the system is horribly broken, they praise it! And worse yet, as so many outside forces are really trying to come up with workable solutions to fix things in Gary, they continue to knowingly and consciously break it. Face it; they don't want things fixed. This is the way they like it. This way they can get away with murder. Don't be their accomplices!

Since last year, when the DUAB granted the City relief on the backs of the taxpayers, the City has done virtually nothing whatsoever to cut its operating costs. They have submitted a dog-and-pony show. They have masterfully attempted to trick all onlookers with their magic, with their sleight-of-hand. It seems as though they may have succeeded. At least if we take PFM's report at face value. They egregiously lied to the DUAB at last year's meeting, surely they've lied to PFM at every possible juncture, they have consistently lied to the citizens of Gary; and we fully anticipate that they will again egregiously lie to the DUAB on January 6th. Aren't we all smart enough to see through their lies? And if we are, why would anyone consider capitulating to their undeserved pleas?

To save the city of Gary, you may first need to cease the operations the City of Gary. Therefore; the first order of business would be to determine which entity is more worth saving; the "City"--which is essentially no more than a gargantuan, money-hungry, corrupt organization which ONLY serves its own needs; the very existence of which constitutes a detriment to its citizenry; or the city and its wonderful hardworking citizens--whose very livelihood and daily existence are threatened by the one entity which they of course instead should rely on for the peace, comfort, and security; which it is ostensibly there to provide to them. Have we now slipped to third-world status? Does the State tacitly approve of Gary citizens being forced to live under what is effectively a dictatorship? Will the State support the City's unwarranted and illegitimate plea to wreak further economic terrorism on its citizens? The decision would seem clear to all of us, hopefully to you as well!

Don't fall for their thinly veiled threats that without receiving this taxpayer-funded relief, that public safety will be reduced to some new level of danger. Don't let this fearmongering affect your decision. Don't fear that only the perpetuation of the status quo will be able to prevent this Pandora's Box being opened and that hell will be unleashed on Gary's neighbors. To the contrary; I would contend that it takes the concerted effort of an enormous amount of resources to maintain this level of crime, not to prevent it! It is only by the perpetuation of Gary's current system of patronage and corruption that even the remote possibility that this Pandora's Box-type threat could even be wielded. Look at things in Gary. Without any government at all, how much worse could things really get? I would strongly contend that without any government whatsoever that they would markedly improve. How could they not?

For the State to support the City, before it supports its citizens--without this taxpayer-funded relief being chained to specific performance metrics within very brief periods (weeks or months, not years) of introduction--is outrageous!

Put your faith where it belongs: in the hands of an able and concerned citizenry--not in the hands of this administration and its managers, which comprise a full complement of inept, lazy, incompetent, unprofessional, undereducated, and improperly trained career politicians and their cronies, who are yet to do anything of any substantive value for the society they claim to serve; when in truth they only doggedly and avariciously serve themselves.

And please don't respond with the trite and inaccurate response so often leveled towards Lake County citizens, "You elected them, don't come crying to us for help now. You made your own bed. Now you have to sleep in it." Unfortunately, in Lake County, and moreso in Gary; the able and capable aren't electable, and more unfortunately; the electable aren't able or capable. So, here we are. Not until the lid to the bottomless cookie jar is forever sealed, will the able and capable have a fair shot at obtaining public office. As long as public office in Gary and Lake County remains an entitlement to squander the public's funds, we should expect the same breed of political operatives to dominate and exert undue influence over public policy which runs counter to the servitude deserved by its citizenry.

A very wise man recently observed: Lake County and Gary are entitled to all of the crummy, graft-ridden leadership we continue to elect. He, and many others recognize that things aren't going to change for the better until this corrupt political machine is stopped. Until winning elected office no longer means that one is ensured a place to gorge at the public trough, things won't change for the better. The best way to stop this machine is to starve it to death. And the best way to starve it is to cut off its food supply. This is Step One. Until its suffocating effect is stopped; until it no longer immediately chokes off the growth of any normalcy which starts; we will never see the change we hope for--the change this area and this city need to flourish. So, we ask you: Pull this weed and water the seeds of this flower which wants to grow, which so needs to grow. Starve this machine--this machine which starves us! Not only of money, but of any reasonable quality of life! We cannot begin on the road to recovery until we no longer travel down the road to perdition.

They have made little or no attempt to slash positions, they just move them around, from here to there, from this funding source to that. They have actually added some positions over the course of the last year--and every added position has gone to some do-nothing crony or pal of someone within this administration. They won't stop--not until they are forcibly stopped! But here's the nice thing: It won't take the deployment of the National Guard to stop this--all it takes is the stroke of a pen. Your pen!

If you plan to grant them help, then by all means, reach deep into your own pockets and give--give generously! But if you instead plan to reach deeper into OUR pockets--then we say no--hell no!

If we are going to have to foot the bill, we'd much rather do it ourselves! Trust us, we will do much better! If we don't, then come back next year and say, "I told you so!" But I think that instead, you'll be telling us, "By gosh, you were right!" I would think that the last thing the DUAB would want is a bunch of us angry citizens marching back down here next year, telling YOU, "See..we told *you* so. You should have listened to us. Shame on you!"

So, instead, just give us the chance, we'll do you proud!

Afterword: And as you ponder whether or not to give the City any taxpayer-funded relief, please bear in mind the following: While these tax caps have always been pitched as 1-2-3; and when Lake

County residents have always been told that their actual rates would be 1.5%, 2.5%, and 3.5%; and after the DUAB's deliberations, the DUAB itself published that Gary's tax rates would instead be 2%, 3.27%, and 4.55%; the actual rates of taxation per hundred of assessed value in Gary are around 2% for residences with a Homestead exemption, 3.47% for rentals, and 4.95% for everything else! These are all a far cry from the legislated rates. And now you want to extend this inequity? These actual rates being charged in Gary are anywhere from 65% to 100% higher than the legislated rates that are being charged nearly everywhere else in the state! And again, you're contemplating prolonging this inequity?

And additionally, nearly all vacant residential lots throughout the city, are being taxed at the highest rate of \$4.95, even if they are the empty lot next door to one's residence which is their Homestead. And as mentioned earlier in this letter, many taxpayers have been horribly errantly assessed under the guise of "trending"; sometimes by factors of 5 or 10 times over their last year's assessed values. So do the math! What good will a small pittance in the reduction of the tax rate do them? There are even bigger problems up here than you are evidently aware of. These puny little baby steps aren't going to effectively rescue us from this morass. We're up to our necks in it! But they'd be a start. But now, worst of all, PFM recommends that you throw the life preserver to them, to the wrong ones. We're the ones that are drowning! They're living like kings and queens off of our backs. Of course they're going to carp about their party coming to an end!

Maybe you should quit overthinking this. Maybe you should quit searching for the answer to some deep-rooted mystery, and instead look at what's staring you right in the face. The reason Gary is different, the reason it has so many problems, is because we're always treated differently. Treat us like everyone else! We're really no different, so quit treating us like we are! We want equality, not special treatment. We are the same!

No half measures in order here. Just one shot. That's all it takes. It's your finger on the trigger. Take aim. And just pull. Firmly and decisively. This bullet doesn't kill us. It saves us!

Conclusion: For Gary to be successful, it needs to become as a place that people will want to come to; but more importantly, it needs to become a place where people will want to stay. It can no longer be a place that engenders an overwhelming desire for so many individuals to wish to leave the city--permanently. And why wouldn't people want to leave? Gary has regressed to what many would characterize as a barren wasteland. At present, not only are outsiders unwilling to come to Gary to invest, but great numbers of its own residents strive to leave, to make way to higher ground. Can you blame them? People will need strong incentives to want to come to Gary, and to remain in Gary. The last thing we need are any more deterrents. I would characterize maintaining the reputation for having the highest tax rate in the state as a fairly strong deterrent; especially in light of the dearth of services we receive. What do you think?

The citizenry is quite able and very willing to work with the administration to fix the problems which beset Gary. The problem is: the administration has no interest or apparent desire to work with the citizenry to do so. I guess that's because they can afford not to. But we aren't afforded that luxury! Yet still, we are willing to take the time away from our already-busy schedules to pitch in, to do our civic duty; but instead of being welcomed, we are rebuked. Kind of like the administration seems to be rebuking some of PFM's recommendations. They will not--will not ever--voluntarily submit to complying with the State's desire and Gary's citizens' desires to straighten out the mess that we sit mired in today. They MUST be forced into compliance. Applying the same medicine that the State and its Legislators saw fit to impose upon the rest of the state will force them into compliance. Allowing them this special dispensation; this relief from the legislated tax caps, will only ensure that they don't comply--will only unnecessarily prolong Gary's destined turnaround. It is Gary's destiny to thrive once again. Your weighty decision can either delay its destiny or help it more quickly realize it.

Big decision, huh? But an easy one, at least one would think!

Respectfully,
Kris Edwards

Dec 29, 2008

To

The department of local Govt.
office of management & budget.

I lived in the City of Gary last 30 yrs,
have few rented homes, I have never any profit,
but was doing it to make something when I sell
these homes.

Now for last two years I am losing
money due to higher property taxes, lot of people
bought homes & fixed em up, to sell. No body
buying homes. I see lot homes on sale, some
have been vandalized. owners gave up.

All over the city same situation, thousands
of empty homes every where. I lost four homes &
tax sale last year. City want to raise taxes.

I urge you to keep property tax Caps
and not give city approval "for relief from tax Caps".
we must learn to live within our means.

Thanks

J. Nawallah Khan
324 S. Hancock St.
Gary IN 46403

Russo, Stephanie

From: Yuri Hoffman [yurilhoffman@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2010 11:27 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Tax Caps

Ms. Stephanie Russo:

The city of Gary's request for to lift the state-mandated tax caps should not be supported. Please do everything in your power to limit the continuation of any requests from the representatives of my city to increase our property taxes.

Thank you in advance for being an advocate for the citizens of Gary.

Yuri Hoffman
1133 N. Vigo St.
Gary, IN. 46403

December 31, 2009

Article Written by Andy Grimm

CROWN POINT -- Gary's most active neighborhood group will protest the city's request for relief from state-mandated tax caps.

The city can survive without an estimated \$15.5 million in tax revenue lost to shortfalls from the statewide "circuit breaker" on property taxes, says Richard Barnes, a resident of the city's lakefront Miller Beach neighborhood.

Have you got something to say?

Residents may e-mail comments to Stephanie Russo at srusso@sba.in.gov or mail testimony to the Distressed Unit Appeals Board, 200 W. Washington, State House Room 212, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

A delegation from Miller Citizens Corporation, a decades-old community group based in Miller Beach, will attend a Jan. 6 hearing before the state Distressed Unit Appeals Board where the city will request an exemption from a statewide "circuit breaker" that limits property tax bills to no more than 3 percent of the assessed value of the property.

The MCC will recommend ending oversight by Public Financial Management, a private fiscal monitor hired by the city at the state's request, Barnes said.

PFM has recommended Gary continue to get relief from the tax caps for two more years.

The MCC will recommend getting rid of the fiscal monitor and forcing the city to live within revenues generated with the caps, Barnes said.

"We can do it ourselves. What's the monitor monitoring at this point?" Barnes said. "PFM did not have the information they needed to make a recommendation, and they aren't familiar with the demographics and makeup of Gary."

Higher taxes will harm Gary more than the reductions in spending and cuts to city services, Barnes said.

"If the taxes are higher, people vote with their feet, and they move," Barnes said. "That lowers property values and hurts the city more."

City residents saw rates rise 85 percent for the Gary Sanitary District for sewer service and a new monthly fee for trash collection when Mayor Rudy Clay hired a private company to handle garbage pickup, Barnes said.

The MCC has sued to block the trash collection fee.

The MCC, and any member of the public can testify at the hearing, will have three minutes to make their presentation, said Cris Johnston of the DUAB.

Russo, Stephanie

From: Kirulis, Karen [KKirulis@dacc.uchicago.edu]
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2010 12:59 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Please, No DUAB for Gary

Dear Ms. Russo,

I live in the Miller section of Gary and feel that an increased property tax will just add to the continued devastation that we are experiencing in all of Gary. Not only did the high 8+% property tax result in many good families fleeing Miller, but the lack of relief for businesses has led to many shuttered long established restaurants and other businesses. Our little downtown Miller now looks like a ghost town, which in turn lowers all property values.

People now know that it is impossible to start or prosper a business in Gary (both because of property taxes and the hostile attitude of the city to anyone trying to start a business or build a home). The hostile attitude comes in the form of city inspectors that do their best to thwart new construction or rehabs and one wonders if this is to personally benefit financially. A neighbor, who is trying to build a house (who started building over 4 years ago and has still not been given permission go to the next step which would facilitate a moving in date) , reports that many contractors will not work in Gary because of the unreasonable hoops the city requires. So, if the city needs more money, one would think that they would work with developers and businesses, not alienate them.

I think that there were many great suggestions from that outside company hired to put Gary spending on a diet. Please let us try their suggestions before raising our taxes again. Please also remember that because of all of the above, our properties are not worth as much as they used to be.

Sincerely,

Karin Kirulis
819 N. Vigo St.
Gary, IN 46403
219-938-0941

Russo, Stephanie

From: JOSEPH FEAGIN [elderjoseph@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2009 2:17 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: RELIEF APPEAL OPPOSITION

Stephanie Russo
Distressed Unit Appeals Board

Dear Stephanie Russo,

I am writing to state my opposition to the city of Gary's appeal for another round of relief. Since, previously granting the last relief, Mayor Rudy Clay, his administration and the City Council has not changed their spending behavior. There now is documented proof that mismanagement as well as ignorance is running rampant at City Hall and at the City Council. It was appalling to read the Public Financial Management Report on how the city of Gary is being operated. These officials cannot even generate an appropriate and legal budget. It can be likened to the head of the family giving the children the pay check to handle the family's budget. There is little oversight of finances which mean little accountability. Yet, the mayor and some city officials have the audacity to resist hard change that must happen if this city is to survive. The city of Gary with its present untrained administration is without a controversy, on a downward spiral. I believe Governor Mitch Daniels knows this. That is why the word, (Receivership) is being mentioned in his comments. It's almost like he knows the incredible. The Distressed Board mandated this Fiscal Monitor and with its findings firmly documented, must force Gary's City officials to comply with its recommendations to the fullest. That in my opinion can only be accomplished by denying this city relief. It will make them to digest the recommended sound proposals of the Fiscal Monitor and put them in action to save this city's future. The Appeals Board should not continue to unfairly raise our taxes, of which we are already burdened with the highest tax load of any city so that Gary's officials can continue the status quo. Gary cannot continue to operate like it used to as if it had 200,000 people. As the Fiscal Monitor has stated, if Big and small Businesses see City officials continue with their present spending behavior patterns, they will soon pack up and leave as will citizens also. Gary MUST change. Deny and force hard change. Thank you, Joseph Feagin Sr.

Russo, Stephanie

From: KRISeKRIS00@aol.com
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 12:28 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Too little, too late?

Ms. Russo: Please distribute this to DUAB members. Thanks!

Dear Sirs:

While the DUAB remains steadfastly focused on the spending side of the equation as it pertains to Gary's unrestrained and wasteful spending; and while it may also focus less directly on the efficacy of services which taxpayers are paying for yet not receiving, the as or more important side of the equation—the income side—appears to be going largely overlooked.

While the DUAB regularly meets with city leaders; and while the SBOA meticulously audits the city's past finances; and while the newly hired fiscal monitors acquaint themselves with Gary's "unique" style of accounting (a style which is probably a cross between methods used by bookies, the Russian mafia, and pre-kindergarteners), the false hope provided by intentionally artificial income projections receive none of the scrutiny and attention that is warranted.

I would like to bring your attention to at least three significant things that will dramatically affect the difference between the projected income and the actual collectable income which will be available to the city; available to fulfill any budget or financial plan which may be devised by the DUAB subsequent to the fiscal monitors' report and recommendations.

1) False "total assessed value" figure for the city of Gary. The city just advertised a TAV number of around 1.7 billion. This is grossly inaccurate due to wrong values for US Steel being included in the TAV number. Additionally, this number includes outrageous values for significant numbers of properties which were "trended" upward by as much as 2000% or more. Certainly great numbers of these properties are still under appeal. It is suspected that one reason that the Calumet Township Assessor's office is dragging their feet on properties under appeal is to mask this error. After the CLT reassessment, I believe that the city's TAV just topped a billion.

2) At present, the Lake County Commissioners are preparing to hold a tax sale beginning this October. On this tax sale as well as the second phase of their sale which is scheduled to take place in November, they will be offering a total of around 30,000 parcels of property. 20,000 of these are situated within the city of Gary. There are only a little over 50,000 total parcels in Gary. So, considering that 9 or 10,000 are owned by the city or its various agencies, and taking into consideration that another several thousand are tax-exempt for one reason or another, over 50% of the total taxable parcels in the city may be sold at this upcoming tax sale. Normally, this wouldn't be a problem,. Normally, the Treasurer sells the taxes for their full amount, a tax buyer buys the lien, and somewhere along the line the property owner redeems the debt and all is well. But not now, not this particular tax sale...not by a longshot!

This last July, the Treasurer did hold a normal sale, however, it was a total failure. Virtually nothing sold. Nothing whatsoever in Gary. So, what they did was this; they converted ALL of the the unsold Treasurer's lien certificates to Commissioners' certificates. This is significant for a whole slew of reasons.

First, a property sold by means of a Commissioners' certificate has all of the taxes forgiven for the years which made it eligible to be sold on the most recent Treasurer's sale. In this case, that would be 2006 pay 2007, 2007 pay 2008, and any delinquencies prior to 2006. Additionally, due to the nature of the sale, the certificate buyer is not required to pay 2008 pay 2009 or 2009 pay 2010 as the sale is taking place in late 2009. Therefore, the city will be losing out on the ability to collect at least four years of property taxes on over 50% of the total number of taxable properties in the city of Gary which are to be offered at this upcoming Commissioners' certificate sale.

Now surely all 20,000 might not sell. But then they might! The Commissioners seem hopeful that they will. If they all did, and if they all went unredeemed (while unlikely, this scenario must be considered as it could happen) the city's collectable income would immediately be reduced by what may be as much as 50%. It could be more as it should be assumed that the majorities of the properties eligible for sale are probably properties which have had the privilege of paying the full 8%-plus ride, not the homes which can benefit from the 2% cap, Homestead deduction, and other eligible deductions. Potentially, the 50% estimate might be conservative. It should also be noted that significant numbers of properties were previously sold at similar Commissioners' sales in 2008 and most of these are not yet taxable.

While perfect, or anywhere near perfect numbers are not available, a rough estimate of the TAV of the properties in Gary which are subject to this upcoming certificate sale is upwards of 300 million. And also, due to the particular nature of this sale, the properties are being offered for pennies on the dollar. So even if everything sold, the proceeds from the entire sale will probably be just enough to cover the costs of holding the sale. So there won't be anything left to supplant the voids in the various affected cities' treasuries. But curiously, just enough to pay the vendor that conducts the sale.

I think that very little thought was given to the devastating effects that this event will have upon Gary.

The most disturbing thing of all is that it would seem that the entire thing is being done in certain contradiction to the statutes under which they are operating. These particular statutes, which seemingly had a very different intent, are being twisted and contorted to conform to the particular needs of those holding this sale. The events which follow this highly questionable sale, will certainly be subject to years of litigations.

And to make it all the worse for the city, the Commissioners' entire defense for conducting this type of sale is based upon the assumption that the new certificate buyers will pay taxes more timely than the current owners. While in some cases this may in fact be true, in others it may not be. These new buyers may not ever pay any taxes. They may not even go through the legwork necessary to effect title. There are effectually no guarantees that conducting this sale will result in any collection of future taxes, however, there is a near guarantee that it will cause an interruption in the collection of taxes. Well enough of that.

Third: Because of the two aforementioned situations, any money borrowed by the city in the form of TAWs—which I believe were based on 92% collections, may become defaultable. Surely, the city has been robbing Peter to pay Paul when it comes to the repayment of past TAWs. But now, this Ponzi-type scheme will be forced to screech to a halt. But not in time to prevent the crash into the brick wall! So, any tax revenue which will be collected, will first have to go to pay past secured obligations. Apparently leaving the only option of a stream of requests to issue excess levies. Bye-bye tax caps! Maybe we should start referring to them as tax caps plus.

And, if the rules of a Commissioners' certificate sale are adhered to in this case, any future taxes which become payable subsequent to the Commissioners' sale, go to a special fund to be utilized by the Commissioners, not to the city in which the properties are located. So therefore, let me revise my minimum four-year chasm to five. (see IC 36-1-8-16)

The canary in the coalmine isn't just dead, it's ice cold and rotted!

Respectfully,
Kris Edwards

Russo, Stephanie

From: andrea basarich [abasarich@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2009 7:14 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: fire houses in Gary

We are in trouble up here. Rudy Clay is considering closing yet another fire station in the 1st District. There are only three men working at each of our stations out here and one is an EMT. This cannot go on like this. What happened to the money that the city recieved. Watch Channel 56 Northwest Indiana News this week and you will see what is happening.

Russo, Stephanie

From: JOSEPH FEAGIN [elderjoseph@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 6:50 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Gary

Dear Stephanie Russo,

I am a concern taxpayer of the city of Gary. According to state audits and other media reports, Gary officials are still spending and mismanaging taxpayer's money freely. Property tax payers are bracing not only increase property values but higher tax caps that the appeals board authorized. I would like to know how and/or who can citizens complain to on this board not to grant the city of Gary any more relief at our expense for these corrupt officials. Thank you, Joseph Feagin Sr.