

Sterling, Andrew

From: Nora's Miller Email List [noraglenn@threedognet.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2010 3:08 PM
To: Sterling, Andrew
Subject: I am a Gary resident.

I do not think it is fair that we should have to pay higher property taxes than are legislated. After all, it is the MCC who initiated the caps based on our situation. I am doing my part. My city is not. Please do not increase our property taxes; this is an unfair burden in a difficult time for us.

Nora Glenn
8237 Oak
Gary, IN 46403

Sterling, Andrew

From: Deb Trelo [debtrelo@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2010 7:52 PM
To: Sterling, Andrew
Subject: Tax Caps

I am against any raise in Gary's tax caps. As a resident of Gary, I feel there is corruption in the Gary government because no one answers for the expenses. We have no accounting of the excess spending. They produce a budget, overspend and there is no accountability. There isn't anything left to offer to the public. Take a look at any other city or towns' website. It is filled with programs for adults, children and families. Gary's website is blank. Please do not give the City of Gary any more of our money to waste.

Thank you,
Deb Trelo

Sterling, Andrew

From: Don Mooers [DMooers@us.nlmk.com]
Sent: Sunday, December 26, 2010 12:55 PM
To: Nora's Miller Email List; Sterling, Andrew
Subject: RE: I am a Gary resident.

I am a Gary resident and I work in Porter county. I pay Porter county income tax. Instead of going after just the property owners of Gary and Lake county I believe that it is time for Lake county to implement a county tax. Miller residents are the reason that the tax cap came into existence .

From: Nora's Miller Email List [mailto:noraglenn@threedognet.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2010 2:08 PM
To: asterling@sba.in.gov
Subject: I am a Gary resident.

I do not think it is fair that we should have to pay higher property taxes than are legislated. After all, it is the MCC who initiated the caps based on our situation. I am doing my part. My city is not. Please do not increase our property taxes; this is an unfair burden in a difficult time for us.

Nora Glenn
8237 Oak
Gary, IN 46403

Sterling, Andrew

From: roy roddy [r.rodgy@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, December 28, 2010 7:45 AM
To: Sterling, Andrew
Cc: r.rodgy@sbcglobal.net
Subject: No to Gary's Request for Distress Assistance

To the Board, Greetings:

I've lived in Gary, over 50 years, and ask why continue to throw good money away in a city that has no vision? You now have before you, the city itself, along with the GSD, GSWMD and GPT all asking for relief should demonstrate to this board that this Gary city government is in a dysfunctional state of existence. Where any assistance now, will only prolong the inateable. To further the city's request for assistance from the state, it has recently laid off 34 firefighter to influence this board decision for relief, but behind the scenes, the city will create one or two patronage positions to re coup the money the city claims it has saved from the layoffs. What's more troubling is that the patronage hiring system has not laid off any staff of non essential use, nor any public officials that the report mandated be dismissed.

The time has come, where Gary, should become the model city to rebuild under the supervision of the State, and by coming under bankruptcy protection. There's no more juice in the turnip to squeeze for the officeholders, Good government leads by example: So Gary should show good faith by demonstrating: (1) to remove perks from the patronage system such as no take home cars,(2) no personal city credit cards for city councilpersons or administrative entities,and (3) lay off administrative personnel outlined in the report, along with non essential staff to start, instead of jeopardizing the safety of a city's ability to respond to emergencies.

Moreover, Gary still refuses the assistance from neighboring communities offering ideas for growth to bring the city on its' feet. Control of a city is tyranny and should be addressed as well. But until then, I say "NO" to providing any money to the City of Gary, Indiana, where waste is the norm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mr. Roy Xavier Roddy

Sterling, Andrew

From: Sterling, Andrew
Sent: Monday, December 27, 2010 2:04 PM
To: Sterling, Andrew
Subject: FW: garyvotes@yahoo.com Wanted to share this article from www.nwitimes.com

-----Original Message-----

From: garyvotes@yahoo.com [mailto:garyvotes@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, December 26, 2010 11:43 AM
To: Sterling, Andrew
Subject: garyvotes@yahoo.com Wanted to share this article from www.nwitimes.com

Here is an article that appeared in The Times suggesting that the City of Gary is NOT concerned about the way it spends tax payer money. I would hope members of the DUAB read this and have second thoughts about extending Gary's exemption from property tax caps.

It is apparent that the concerns expressed by the administration of the City of Gary are insincere and they will keep spending money as long as they have it.

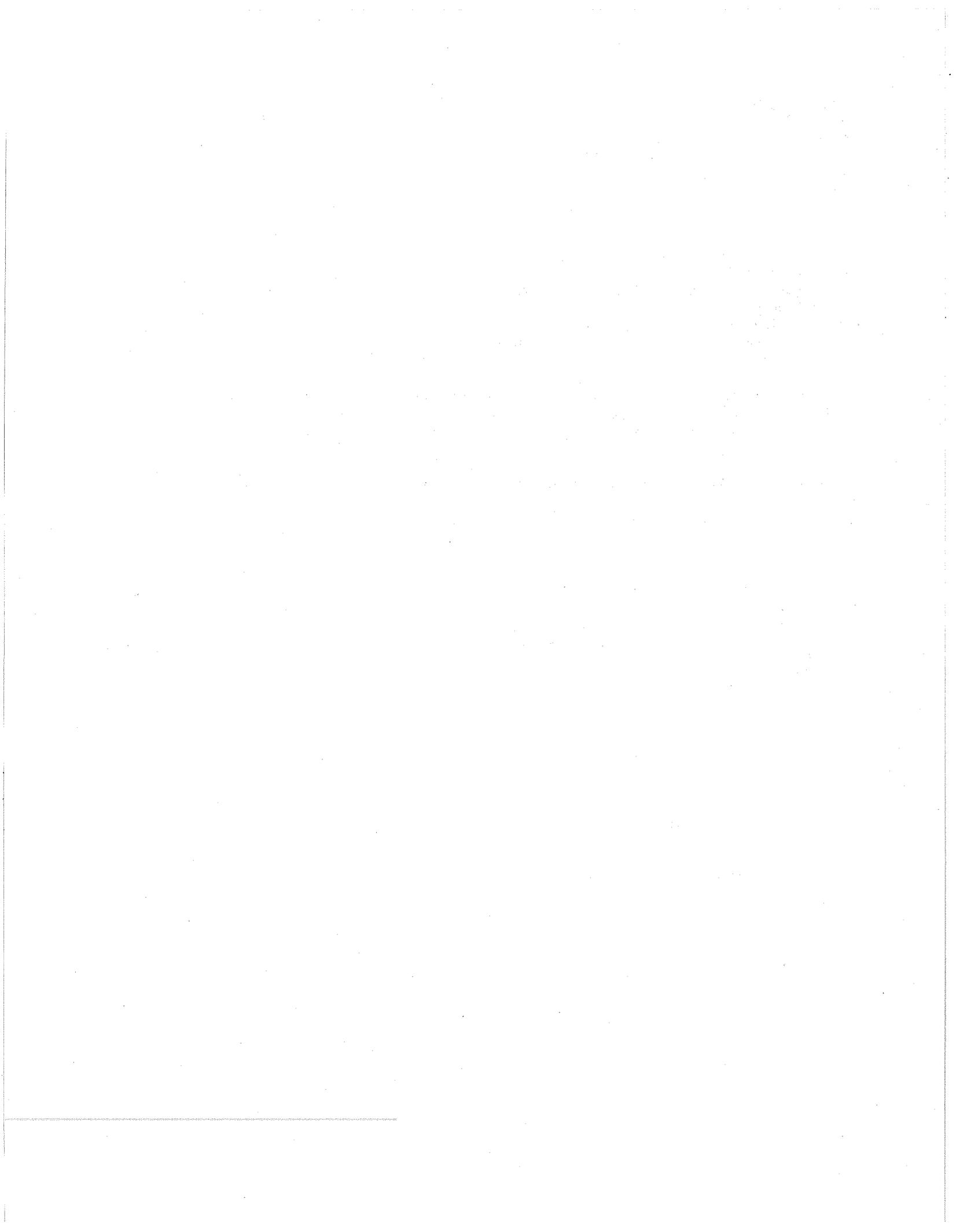
VOTE "NO" TO GARY'S THIRD REQUEST FOR PROPERTY TAX CAP EXEMPTION !

Thank you.

Audit: Gary spending raises red flags

Click on the link or Copy and Paste the address into your internet browser window.
http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/article_47ad6e00-0969-51ae-a567-5c3de7beaad4.html

- garyvotes@yahoo.com



 the times

Audit: Gary spending raises red flags

Dan Carden - dan.carden@nwi.com, (317) 637-9078 | Posted: Wednesday, September 9, 2009 12:30 am

INDIANAPOLIS | The city of Gary is more than \$4 million overdrawn and the effect of Indiana's property tax caps "raises substantial doubt about the city's ability to continue as a going concern," according to a new state audit.

At the same time, auditors found Gary paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in questionable food, travel and personal expenses for city officials in 2008, even as those officials begged the state to allow the city to impose higher property taxes.

Riverboat gambling revenue is keeping the city afloat, with more than \$12 million in state gaming taxes going to pay the city's day-to-day expenses last year. Even so, the city still owes more than \$2.5 million in employee health care bills and has fallen behind on many of its other bills, according to the 157-page audit report prepared by the State Board of Accounts.

Property tax caps have significantly reduced Gary's revenue and the city will need to drastically cut its budget as a result, auditors said.

In May, the state gave the city more time before the full effect of tax caps kicks in. Gary is allowed to charge one-third higher property tax rates than the rest of the state.

"If the city had been required to immediately comply with this tax legislation, they would have needed to reduce their 2009 budget by over \$30 million and their 2010 budget by an additional \$6 million," auditors wrote.

Compounding Gary's problem is Lake County's slow reassessment of properties after tax caps were put on, auditors said. The delay has meant tax bills go out late, money comes in late and cities have to borrow until the money comes in. Gary has paid nearly \$2 million extra in interest because of the delay.

But Gary Mayor Rudy Clay said he remains optimistic about his city's future.

"I believe that for the city of Gary there's light at the end of the tunnel," Clay said. He said an improving economy, federal stimulus money and state aid will improve Gary's situation.

The city laid off 100 employees in June to partially reduce this year's estimated \$7 million deficit. A fiscal monitor has been hired to recommend future budget cuts.

But you can't necessarily tell that Gary's broke by the behavior of city officials, the audit suggests.

Auditors said Clay used his city-issued American Express card to pay for a personal vacation, travel for his wife and repairs to his city-purchased Hummer. Clay later reimbursed the city for some of his personal expenses when they were discovered by auditors.

"We paid it back after an honest mistake was made by one of the office workers," Clay said.

Clay said his credit card number is often used to pay for department expenses incurred by other city workers.

Auditors also found City Clerk Suzette Raggs took an office employee to Ponderosa, Kenny's Ribs, Cracker Barrel and Bennigan's restaurants for lunch at least once a month on the city's dime.

Gary spent \$90,565 to renovate City Hall bathrooms as well as \$278,390 on "promotion" last year. "Promotion" includes buying food and drinks for a skybox at Gary SouthShore RailCats baseball games, paying \$15,000 for a videotape of demolition projects and purchasing more than \$1,000 in flowers for employees, according to the report.

Through April of this year, the city also has spent at least \$11,828.50 for City Council members to attend conferences in

Washington, D.C., and Indianapolis, auditors said.

Among the audit's findings

State auditors questioned the legitimacy and necessity of many things the city of Gary paid for in 2008, including:

- \$90,565 in renovations to City Hall bathrooms
- \$10,720 in car washes for police, fire, recycling, city court and council vehicles
- \$2,895.62 to send two sanitary district employees to a three-day conference on how to set up airport kiosk businesses
- \$278,390 on "promotion," which includes buying food and drinks for a skybox at various Gary SouthShore RailCats baseball games, paying \$15,000 for a videotape of demolition projects and purchasing more than \$1,000 in flowers for employees.
- \$484.74 for City Council Member Kyle Allen Sr. to stay in a hotel while attending a Democratic Party political event in Chicago
- City Council travel to South Bend; Rapid City, S.D.; Atlanta; Indianapolis twice; Welches, Ore.; and Orlando, Fla.
- Monthly lunches between City Clerk Suzette Raggs and her deputy at Ponderosa, Kenny's Ribs, Cracker Barrel and Bennigan's restaurants.
- Meals for the mayor at Gamba's in Merrillville, Beach Cafe in Gary and Leona's in Calumet City
- Repairs to the mayor's Hummer performed by an outside vendor, despite the city having a vehicle maintenance department

Auditors pointed out that a complete list of expenses cannot be determined because Mayor Rudy Clay does not submit itemized receipts for his city-issued American Express card.

Sterling, Andrew

From: AYoung7550@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, December 23, 2010 8:23 AM
To: Sterling, Andrew
Subject: Business as usual in Gary

Indicted businessman to get \$35K from Gary

Fed charges relate to nonprofit Haymon operates

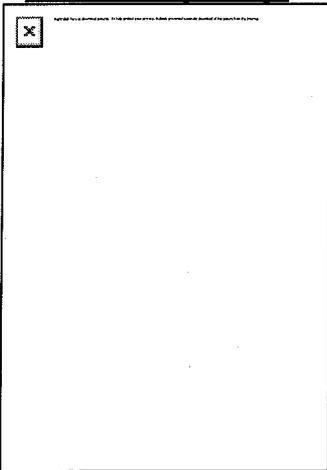
Comments

December 23, 2010
BY JON SEIDEL, (219) 648-3068

GARY -- A local janitorial business owned by a man facing federal fraud charges will receive nearly \$35,000 from the city for work it performed early this year, but the terms of the deal were confirmed only Wednesday.

That compensation for Dynamic Janitorial Services will be added to contracts already worth \$175,000 total for work done in 2009, and records show current contracts with the company totaling \$147,475 last until February.

» [Click to enlarge image](#)



Haymon
(Photo provided)

Gary's Board of Public Works and Safety endorsed two amendments to Dynamic's 2009 contracts to clean up the City Hall Annex, at 839 Broadway, and the Adam Benjamin Metro Center.

State records show the president of Dynamic Janitorial is Jerry Haymon, who is charged with wire fraud in an indictment unsealed in October. Community Development Director Jacquelyn Drago-Hunter, reserve police officer Phillip Rucker and mortgage broker Sheila Chandler are co-defendants in the case.

Although the contracts expired at the end of 2009, Wednesday's changes extend them retroactively until the end of February 2010 and add a combined maximum payment of \$34,686.

"The contractor performed the services," City Attorney Carl Jones said.

Dynamic's current contracts to work at those buildings began in March and last until February 2011, officials said.

Jones said the changes to the old contracts weren't approved until Wednesday because of recent confusion over payments due to Dynamic Janitorial. Jones said compensation for work done in January and February shouldn't fall under the terms of the current contracts.

No contract existed at the time, Jones said, because of a delay in receiving bids.

Haymon's not-for-profit Coalition of Concern previously received \$75,000 from the Gary City Council, and Haymon has said he used it to renovate a home in the 4000 block of Tennessee Street.

In this fall's indictment, a federal grand jury said that home and others were sold under fraudulent terms. It said Haymon and his co-defendants pocketed the profits of the bogus sales.

Haymon and his co-defendants have all pleaded not guilty. A trial has been scheduled for August.