

**E-Mail Viewer**

Message	Details	Attachments	Headers	Source
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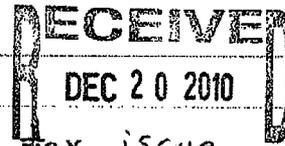
HTML

From: "Web Form Poster" <aharton@aol.com>  
Date: 12/8/2010 8:37:33 AM  
To: "webform@gov.IN.gov" <webform@gov.IN.gov>  
Cc:  
Subject: Contact Form: other

<APP>CUSTOM  
<MSG>Please do not let Gary raise our property tax to 1.5% again this year.I am paying over \$4,000 and cannot sell my house. All I want to do isto be able to sell my house and get out of this stinking city. If thiscity wants to save money then stop allowing churches to crop upeverywhere and not pay taxes. Close offices in Gary like the assessorand health department. Please do not give Gary this tax increaseagain. Gary is sitting on so much property that they will not sell.Make them sell it or give it away so we will have more people payingtaxes. While my late husband and I were working on a rental propertythe code enforcer came by. He said we could not work on the exteriorof the house that we had to hire a Gary contractor. He then recognizedmy husband and said oh you go ahead and finish the house, we justdon't want people from Hobart, Portage and Merrillville to come to ourcity and profit. In other words, Let's keep Gary black and poor.  
</MSG>  
<ISSUE>other</ISSUE>  
<PREFIX>Ms.</PREFIX>  
<FIRST>Antoinette</FIRST>  
<MIDDLE>L</MIDDLE>  
<LAST>Harton</LAST>  
<SUFFIX></SUFFIX>  
<ADDR1>6851 Ironwood Ave</ADDR1>  
<ADDR2></ADDR2>  
<CITY>Gary</CITY>  
<STATE>IN</STATE>  
<ZIP>46403</ZIP>  
<COUNTY>Lake</COUNTY>  
<PHONE>219-938-0586</PHONE>  
<EMAIL>aharton@aol.com</EMAIL>  
</APP>

Close

Dear Gov. Mitch Daniels



DLGF  
2454718

Mr. Daniels this property tax issue is quite frankly getting out of hand, especially when there is no type visual proof that our money is doing anything. The roads are still full of pot holes in the city of Gary, no funds or not enough funds are being dispersed among the schools for rebuilding. Unemployment benefits only being available to now what seems to be a selected few is just preposterous, I mean if you haven't seen the recent percentages of Indiana's labor force that is unemployed, it stands at 9.2% that's among the highest in the country. And now hopefully you won't approve of this absurd property tax number that the Gary City Council voted for which is 41.1 million in total of next year. The result of raising property taxes will only cause those that are employed to struggle a little bit more and crime to rise, also causing more people to leave their homes, it already seeming like it's more abandon houses than one's occupied. Myself and I know as well as the city of Gary would truly appreciate your efforts and consideration for us.

### E-Mail Viewer

Message	Details	Attachments	Headers	Source
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HTML

From: "Web Form Poster" <gwenetta\_h@yahoo.com>  
Date: 12/29/2010 1:42:18 PM  
To: "webform@gov.IN.gov" <webform@gov.IN.gov>  
Cc:  
Subject: Contact Form: other

<APP>CUSTOM  
<MSG>Greetings Mr. Daniels, I am writing you in response to Gary, Indiana. I am currently a resident of Indianapolis and was born and raised in Gary, Indiana and I am wanting to know what can be done to help the city of Gary on the behalf of the state. Meaning you as the governor is there something that you can do to help improve the city, funding, whatever is needed because it is continually deteriorating and it seems like the government is not trying to do anything to help. I am a concerned resident and have family still there. Thank you for your response in advance. Gwenetta Hill  
</MSG>  
<ISSUE>other</ISSUE>  
<PREFIX>Ms.</PREFIX>  
<FIRST>Gwenetta</FIRST>  
<MIDDLE></MIDDLE>  
<LAST>Hill</LAST>  
<SUFFIX></SUFFIX>  
<ADDR1>5965 Lakeview Drive #A</ADDR1>  
<ADDR2></ADDR2>  
<CITY>Indianapolis</CITY>  
<STATE>IN</STATE>  
<ZIP>46224</ZIP>  
<COUNTY>Marion</COUNTY>  
<PHONE>317-457-3036</PHONE>  
<EMAIL>gwenetta\_h@yahoo.com</EMAIL>  
</APP>

Close

## **Sterling, Andrew**

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**From:** Gary Votes [garyvotes@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 30, 2010 8:34 AM  
**To:** Sterling, Andrew  
**Subject:** Fw: Letter From a laid-off gary fire fighter

Mr. Sterling,

I am forwarding this letter for the DUAB posting regarding the City of Gary. These comments reflect the ideas and opinions of the author and shows how some of the Gary employees have ideas on cost-savings and administration efficiencies.

Thank you.

Richard Barnes, Ph.D.  
Gary, Indiana

## **Subject: Letter From a laid-off gary fire fighter**

To whom it may concern,

September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010

Attached is a list of items that can make the fire department a better, safer, profitable place to work.

Here is just a quick background on my career and credentials.

I have been in the fire service since 1994. I served as an Aircraft/Shipboard Firefighter in the US Navy for 3 years. In 1997 I became a volunteer firefighter for South Haven Fire Department and served there until 2004. In 1998 I was certified as a Firefighter/EMT with the State of Indiana. In 1997 I was part of the ride along program here in the City and Rode religiously with Chief (then Capt.) Delgado until I was hired Full time as an EMT with the City in 2001. In 2003 I was certified as a Paramedic. In 2005 I took a SIGNIFICANT pay cut and switched over to the fire side to be a Firefighter. Not thinking I would ever face a lay off, but did it for a better pension. Since then I have obtained my Hazmat Tech. specializing in incident command, Fire Instructor, Fire Officer, Engine Operator, And Ariel Operator. In 2009 I joined the Town of Burns Harbor Fire Department where I am a Firefighter/Paramedic/Field Instructor as well I am an Instructor for the Indiana Fire Training System for District One. I have been an employee of the City of Gary for almost 10 years now. On top of state certifications I have attended over 1000 hours of continuing education to better my career and maintain certifications. Do the math; the amount of time I have spent in classes over the last 14 years is equivalent to a Masters Degree.

I have been a member of both SEIU and IAFF Local 359. For years I have been saying that EMS and Fire need to be combined. For years I have been told it can't happen. It CAN HAPPEN; it just needs the support of the right people to make it happen! The problem lies within the members of the EMS division and Fire Department. The older Medics don't want to be Firefighters and the older Firefighters don't want to be Medics.

Bottom line, too bad things need to change in order for the fire department to survive the depression that we are in. SOP'S need to change, leadership needs to change, the day to day operations of the fire department need to change. The fire service itself is an ever-changing business and it is a BUSINESS. By the grace of God we have not had a line of duty death.

Here are just a few things that can make both departments a little better. I have brought this stuff up many times and the ideas just keep getting shot down. Hopefully this will land in the right hands and things will happen to the department to keep everyone employed and make this a better, safer place to work.

I hope you find this helpful it saving the City money and making the Fire Department a Better, Safer, More Efficient place to work.

I can be reached at 219-712-5126 or by email [GFDMEDIC@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:GFDMEDIC@HOTMAIL.COM)

Thank-You for your considerations

#### THINGS THE GARY FIRE DEPARTMENT CAN DO TO SAVE MONEY

1. Close and tear down Sta 11, 10, 6, and 4! See number 6 bellow.
2. Simply change the name of a ambulance to a RESCUE and we can get more money from the state and federal gov!
3. Run double houses as double houses
4. Combine EMS and Fire

Pull everyone out of Supportive services and put them back in the stations

Put the medic's through a mini academy and get them certified to fight fire.

The firemen don't want to work on the ambulances because of the run volume if you can combine the services together then we can have 6 or more ambulances on the streets and they might have 5 runs a day.

Every fire house in service with 4 men on the trucks, not having to lay off 1 person!!!!!!

PUT PARAMEDICS ON THE ENGINES TO PROVIDE ADVANCED CARE BEFORE AMBULANCES ARRIVE!

5. Bill for services provided

Such as responding to multiple false alarms, suspicious fires, Hazmat, EMS assists to outside agencies, such as prompt.

We are behind in the times, other departments have been billing for these things for years!!

If we are at a fire and use items such as foam, tear a fire hose, gear gets ripped or ruined, gloves get a hole in them, all of these can be billed for.

6. Eliminate supportive services positions and put them back in the stations!
7. Put a double house south of 39<sup>th</sup> ave, close station 4 and move their equipment to station 2.
8. Purchase more ambulances and staff them so the private ambulances will have to stay out of the city.

Within 3 years we can have a ambulance at every station!

On average a BLS run costs \$350 and an ALS run costs \$700 average those two and multiply by 10 runs a day. If we take 5 BLS and 5 ALS from Prompt, Family, or Northwest we could make...\$5,250.00! Now multiply that by 365 days a year...\$1,916,250.00 That's that we are \$1,916,250.00 just GIVING AWAY!!!

Split that in half and make it half, cut the 10 runs down to five, that's still \$958,125.00

Split bill for mutual aid or ALS assist calls!

This is what a typical ems bill should like for the Department

Baseline Ems Run for Advanced Life Support (ALS) \$650

Followed by billing for specific items and millage

Let's say The Patient gets initial ALS treatment

Which is Oxygen, heart monitor, and IV \$150.

Add in Incubation \$75

Add in CPAP \$75

Add in any medications given \$35 for each med given

PLUS \$12.75 FOR MILLAGE

Bill for ALS refusals!!!!!!!!!!

You can bill up to \$250 for ALS refusals, such as Diabetics that don't want to go to the hospital.

Taxes simply pay for the fire and ems department to have the essential equipment and manpower. WE CAN BILL FOR SERVICES RENDERED!!!

9. With supportive services back in the stations we could have 5 men to a rig!
10. No one should be getting laid off, it's all about how we market the fire department.
11. The crews can do fire prevention, minor station maintenance, and public education.
12. Crews can start doing inspections
13. Crews can start enforcing fire codes and start fining people for violating them.
14. Open the Ride Along Program back up and charge a yearly fee say \$30 for each person and have that money go to training. A lot of people want to come and ride with the fire dept because of the amount of fires we get.
15. Fundraisers- Such as a Spaghetti Dinner or a Boot drive for the fire department instead of the Sickle cell foundation and Jerrys kids. Every year we collect for them when we are struggling just as bad for money!
16. The only people that should have take home cars are 101,102,103,131, and 450. Right now the division chiefs get a take home car that the drive to work, park, and get into another car to drive for the shift. What kind of sense does that make?
17. Contract out Radio Repair

18. Contract out vehicle maintenance

19. Have people that are CERTIFIED in positions. 90% of Officers are not State Certified Officers as well as even being certified firefighters. Technically over half the fire department is not certified to even ride on the fire trucks.

Engineer's over 80% are not certified to operate the trucks and engines, yet they are promoted and are allowed to drive.

Half of the firefighters are not certified firefighters

Yet all of the above are promoted just based on seniority and a test

We have Safety Officers that are not certified safety officers.

We have a health and safety officer but we don't have a fitness program or an annual physical. If we did, it would cut down on yearly medical costs for the City

We have an EMS CHIEF POSITION that is supposed to be filled with a Fire Fighter/Paramedic. He isn't even a first responder!

There are SO MANY ways the Fire Department can save and MAKE MONEY, we all just need to come up with ideas and implement them.

Not everyone will be happy with the changes, but it is time for changes. The Gary Fire Department is stuck in the 70's. It's time to make some drastic changes if we want to survive as a Fire Department.

20. If Chicago FD gets a house fire they get 3 engines, 2 trucks, a heavy rescue, 2 chiefs, and 2 ambulances. Total of 29 firefighters!

21. Gary gets 2 engines, 1 truck, a heavy rescue (if it's not on another call), safety officer (if they are there that day or not on another call), Battalion Chief and an ambulance (if we have one available). We get 14!!!!

22. There SHOULD be at least 1 ambulance and 2 chiefs at every fire for safety reasons! WE DON'T!!!!

23. Things HAVE to change, if they don't we are bound for failure.

Right now we are a Class 6 fire department

If we lay off anybody our ISO rating will drop

With the plan I have we could be a Class 1 fire department

ISO sets your insurance rates the lower the number the lower your insurance for home and business owners.

24. Why does the old Mercy Hospital still have power?

The part that isn't operational as part of the public safety facility needs to be torn down.

25. SHUT DOWN THE GENESIS CENTER, the amount of money it costs for up keep, employees, and security is more than the amount it generates for the City. Tear it down or sell it.

26. SHUT DOWN HUDSON CAMPBELL, the amount of money it costs for up keep, employees, and security is more than the amount it generates for the City. With the exception of the weights, all the other is old and broken. Just like everything else in the city once it breaks it's not going to get replaced. SELL the building to Bally's Fitness or something. Bring business to the City.

27. TEAR DOWN THAT EYE SORE OF A HOTEL WE KEEP DUMPING MONEY INTO!!!

28. Why do we have a demolition department, when it all gets contracted out?

Have a Demo department that does demolition and recycle the materials.

## **Sterling, Andrew**

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**From:** Mark Christopher [ktw58@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 05, 2011 9:37 AM  
**To:** Sterling, Andrew  
**Subject:** Please Deny Gary's Appeal

Greetings,

I am Gary resident and I recently read where you are not receiving as many letters opposing the City's appeal to the DUAB as in past years. This is because we are tired and frustrated to the point of inaction. No matter how many of us object, or how strongly we emphasize to you over and over again that granting these appeals hurts all of our citizens and stalls legitimate efforts to revitalize and redevelop our City through private enterprise, you continue to grant these short-sighted appeals. Many property owners such as myself have decided we might just as well wait it out until appeals are no longer allowed; however, I believe there is still a chance you might see the benefits of keeping Gary's tax rates at the same level as the rest of the State. You have heard all of the arguments and are aware of the facts and fabrications; please consider denying this appeal.

Sincerely,  
Kurt Weiss  
Gary, IN

## **Sterling, Andrew**

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**From:** Charles Hensel [henselgary@att.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 05, 2011 10:40 AM  
**To:** Sterling, Andrew  
**Subject:** Gary Appeal to DUAB  
**Attachments:** --static--bg\_xmas\_mini\_1.gif

To: DUAB

From: The Reverend and Mrs. Charles H Hensel

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We protest any permission for Gary, Indiana to increase its taxes. The lack of capital funds in our city comes from a variety of causes, many of them a direct result of bad decisions by politicians. A promised road to the Majestic gambling boats was never built by the city. In response, millions of gambling boat revenue has been put in escrow. The tax problem was further enhanced when the legislature passed a bill at the request of Lake County Representatives and our Senator that vastly reduced the taxes of several large corporations, including U S Steel, which lies in the city's boundaries.

We should not be forced to pay for the errors of elected officials.

We suggest:

- 1) Repeal the tax breaks given to heavy industry.
- 2) Build the road to the gambling boats and amortize its cost with the monies to be received that lie in escrow.
- 3) Permit the city to declare bankruptcy and put us into the care of a receiver.

Sincerely yours,

The Rev. Charles H Hensel

Sarah H Hensel

8414 Oak Avenue

Gary, IN 46403-1427

[henselgary@att.net](mailto:henselgary@att.net)

January 5, 2011

## **Sterling, Andrew**

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**From:** carole barnes [cbarnes805@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 05, 2011 10:45 AM  
**To:** Sterling, Andrew  
**Cc:** jseidel@post-trib.com  
**Subject:** GARY APPEALS

Dear Mr. Sterling and DUAB Members,

I would like to add my voice to those in vehement opposition to any additional funding for the City of Gary. We are already paying the highest property taxes of any entity in the entire state--for what? Burned out traffic lights are not even replaced, the roads are terrible, firefighters are laid off in large numbers, basically there is nothing being done at City Hall except continue to support the Clay family and cronies. And on top of all this, we have the highest murder rate in the entire country for cities of 50,000 to 99,999. Everything has been in steep decline during the Clay administration.

One more year of bailout will not change anything, except possibly forcing some who ARE paying their taxes to be forced out of their homes and the city--further lowering city income and viability. There are many citizens throughout Gary who love this city and keep trying to make positive changes in how the city is operated. With this administration that is impossible--no one outside of Rudy's domain is allowed, invited or welcomed in any capacity.

Please allow the inevitable to occur now without placing further burden on us taxpayers who are struggling to survive here.

Carole Barnes, Gary homeowner

## **Sterling, Andrew**

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**From:** Gary Votes [garyvotes@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 05, 2011 11:07 AM  
**To:** Sterling, Andrew  
**Cc:** Eric Reaves; Tom Eaton; Carol Smith; Wendy Prettyman; Jon Seidel; Heinold, Vic; Nichole Bissonette  
**Subject:** Miller Citizens Corporation Votes against DUAB Extension for City of Gary

Good morning, Mr. Sterling,

In an executive board meeting of the Miller Citizens Corporation, a community based organization with membership that exceeds 300 families, voted against the DUAB issuing a third year of property tax cap exemptions to the City of Gary, Indiana.

The City of Gary currently pays fifty percent higher property taxes than any other city in the State of Indiana and previous exemptions for the state mandated tax caps, have failed to show any difference or change in the way the City of Gary does business. It is obvious that a third year will not bring any change to how the City of Gary is managed and homeowners will endure another year of unnecessary tax burdens.

The executive board voted unanimously to stay the course in its opposition to Gary's request for a third year of property tax exemptions.

Eric Reaves, President  
Carol Smith, Vice President  
Richard Barnes, Ph.D. - Vice President  
Tom Eaton, Secretary  
Wendy Prettyman, Treasurer