

# CITY COURT OF GARY

**DEIDRE L. MONROE, Judge**

555 Polk Street  
Gary, Indiana 46402  
(219) 881-1271  
Fax: (219) 881-1278



December 31, 2008

Distress Unit Appeals Board  
Office of Management and Budget  
100 North Senate, N-1059B  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Petition for Relief

Dear Board Members,

Please be advised that I am writing this letter in support of relief for the City of Gary.

I am currently employed by the Gary City Court, as the Program Director for the Drug Court. The Gary City Drug Court was established in 1996 and since its inception it has had a tremendous impact on our community. The Program has allowed countless numbers of people an opportunity to become viable members of our community. If the City of Gary does not get relief, the Drug Court Program will be in serious jeopardy.

The Drug Court Program provides a second chance to many who have the potential to get lost in the criminal justice system. This is not only a matter of saving the lives of potential clients but it is a matter of public safety.

The Gary City Drug Court Program has been nationally recognized and has been used as a model for other Indiana Drug Courts, for other states and internationally. Each component of the program is designed to strengthen the community through enriching the lives of our participants via education, treatment, and employment services. The Court also ensures that participants receive any additional services that they may require.

The Gary City Court also has a mental health component. Our Special Services Court is designed to deal with those offenders that have mental health issues. Due to the deinstitutionalization of our mental health system, this program is gravely needed. If the Court is forced to cut this aspect of its function, this will have a huge negative impact on this city. Once again, this is a public safety issue. Those mentally ill offenders will not have a safety net nor will the citizens have any mechanism to ensure compliance with treatment components. This segment of the population will not only continue to prey upon the public, whether intentionally or not, but will further strain the remaining

resources by becoming an economic burden on the criminal justice system and our community. Without the Gary City Court's Special Services Court, these folks will be warehoused within the criminal justice system resulting in no benefit to the community.

As you can see, the Gary City Court is essential to the well being of this city. In addition to the above special programs, the Court provides a minimum of 10,000 community service hours per year. The Court is active in community clean up efforts, ensuring that children have coats in the winter months, and various other activities that benefit the City of Gary.

Please consider the contents of this letter when making your decision regarding the City of Gary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Ann Torian".

Mary Ann Torian  
Gary City Court  
349 Lake Street  
Gary, Indiana 46403  
219-881-1271 ext. 1131



The City of Gary, Indiana

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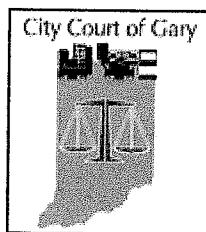
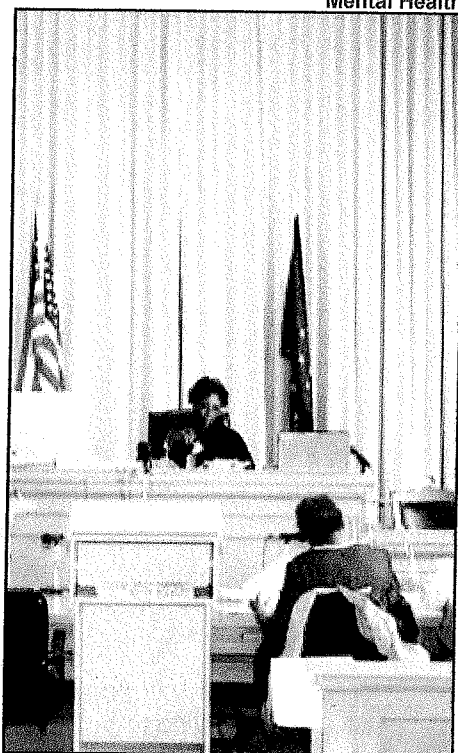
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Judge Deidre Monroe Bio | Mission Statement | Services/ Programs | Events | Pre-Trial Services  
Mental Health Court | Civil Court | Court Room Rules | Contact Us | Home



**Welcome to the City Court of Gary**

Initially, the Gary City Court was primarily developed as a traffic court. As times have changed, the Court has had to evolve to meet the needs of the public. Since the mid 1950's, criminal and civil divisions as well as other ancillary programs have been developed and implemented.

For the year 2001, Judge Deidre Monroe and her staff of 60 employees, processed 36,602 new cases. This figure includes filings that comprise criminal, infractions, civil and city ordinance violations. These statistics represent the largest municipal court caseload in the state of Indiana.

... "FOR A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY"



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**SECOND CHANCE DRUG COURT PROGRAM** is a docket created by the Gary City Court to address cases involving individuals who are addicted to drugs. Those persons charged with non-violent criminal offenses are allowed to enter pleas of guilty. Their guilty pleas are taken under advisement for a period of one year, minimally, and the participant is required to submit to weekly drug test, court appearances, job and educational training, family counseling and any other assistance necessary to help the person maintain a drug free, crime free existence.

The Court seeks to reduce the rate of recidivism, increase the productivity of these individuals to society and themselves and effectively employ alternatives to incarceration.

**PROBATION SERVICES** monitor a defendant's behavior in the community and their compliance with the Court's ordered conditions and sanctions. The Probation Department is required to provide assistance as well as supervise the defendants it monitors. Further, the department submits pre-sentence investigation reports for sentencing and make recommendations where appropriate to the Court.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM** partnership with the city's General Services Department by using appropriate offenders to help clean the city.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNSELING** is a service provided to court ordered defendants who primarily have been charged with domestic battery related offenses. The program offers counseling to reduce recidivism that is common among domestic violence incidences.

**E.A.S.E.** (Elder Abuse and Safety Education) is a program designed to address increasing incidences of crimes against our senior/elder population. The Judge and/or designated staff visit seniors at their residence and various other locations to educate and enlighten them on safety tips, signs of abuse, protection against con-artist activity and other such crimes.

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**"DO OR DIE"** was created in 1999 to address the adult male population arrested on drug related charges. In an attempt to discourage deeper involvement with drug use and other types of antisocial behavior, this rigid program provides an alternative to such continued behavior. Modeled after the Second Chance Drug Court Program, it incorporates a strengths-based approach to speak to the challenges that face this population of young men. The program requires offenders who are tottering on the brink of career criminal behavior to complete an intense year of Court supervision. The ultimate objective is to redirect innate talent, strengths and energy into positive ventures.

**MENTAL HEALTH COURT** is a recent program offered to defendants who are mentally challenged. Its primary mission is work in partnership with mental health providers who assist in monitoring the special needs of defendants before the court.

**PRE-TRIAL SERVICES** is a division of the Court that is responsible for, but not limited to, processing persons arrested on misdemeanor charges. This department initiates an interview and background check on the defendants prior to their court appearance. The department is also responsible for ensuring bond assessment, trial dates and transportation, when appropriate, of all individuals who are categorized as an in-custody.

Distress Unit Appeals Board  
Office of Management & Budget  
100 North Senate, N-1058B  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

To the Distress Unit Appeals Board

Gary City Court, The City of Gary, Lake County and the State of Indiana need you to affirm the City of Gary's request for emergency relief with a clause to maintain the functions of Gary City Court. Gary City Court offers many services which directly improve the economic conditions of the community, the City of Gary, and Lake County, while indirectly improving the economic condition of the State of Indiana. Gary City Court provide the following services, which would all be jeopardized without affirmation from the Distress Unit Appeals Board: Mental Health Court, Second Chance Drug Program, "Do or Die" Program, Mediation (Domestic Violence), and Pre-Trial services.

Working as the Court Administrator for Gary City Court and a citizen of the City of Gary, I have a unique opportunity of seeing the positive effects Gary City Court's programs provide for the citizens and their families. Gary City Court programs were enacted to increase treatment for chemically dependent individuals who have committed crimes based upon their direct or indirect chemical dependency. Gary City Court reduces the financial burden and stress of incarceration for Lake County thereby reducing cost for the State of Indiana. Gary City Court produces productive tax paying citizens back into the community.

Our Gary City Drug Court has graduated 503 clients since 1996, positively influencing over 503 families in Northwest Indiana. Gary City Drug Court has helped 9 pregnant women give birth to 9 drug free babies. Gary City Court has provided over 10,000 hours of community service to the citizens of the City of Gary. Gary City Court provides trash collection of vacant lots throughout the City of Gary during the summer. Gary City Court positively impacts the City of Gary, Northwest Indiana, Lake County and the State of Indiana.

Gary City Court and the citizens of Northwest Indiana need you to affirm the City of Gary's request for emergency relief with a clause to maintain the services of Gary City Court. The elimination of Gary City Court's services should not be an option it will devastate the City of Gary.

Sincerely,



Adoniss Gibson, MBA  
3809 Delaware Street  
Gary, Indiana  
46409



# MILLER CITIZENS CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 2645 • GARY, INDIANA 46403



"MILLER, THERE'S NO PLACE I'D RATHER LIVE"

January 2, 2009

Distressed Units Appeal Board  
Indiana Department of Local Government Finance  
100 N. Senate, N-1058B  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Attn: Ms. S. Russo

Dear Ms. Russo,

I am writing on behalf of the Miller Citizens Corporation, a community organization in the Miller area of Gary, which has been involved in local issues for the past 37 years and has been in the forefront of the movement to control property taxes in our city and state.

The Miller Citizens Corporation (MCC) opposes the request of the City of Gary for relief from the property tax caps legislated by the Indiana General Assembly in HB1001 of 2008. We believe it is essential that the tax caps be honored to prevent the complete evacuation of residents and businesses from our city – a process which is already well advanced.

The City of Gary has presented what they claim is a plan for coming into compliance with the caps by 2012. We have some general comments about this plan:

-Our city has been facing property tax caps for the past five years, and during this period the city has not reduced spending. In fact, city budgets have continued to increase.

-The city's current cost reduction plan calls for a modest decrease in spending for the coming year and postpones most of the spending cuts until 2012. We don't believe these cuts will actually be made.

-If the city can eventually operate with the income levels projected for 2012, why wait four years for these cuts – make them now.

-When the prospect of budget cuts is discussed, the City begins with the need to cut police and fire protection, which everyone agrees are critically important. They do not talk about cutting the other 800 city employees and the contract workers who are less critical.

We do not have the manpower to analyze the budget line by line and point out all the waste and extravagance. We hope you have people on your staff that has the training and the time to perform this important task. However, we would like to discuss the subject of solid waste removal as an example.

In the recent past, garbage collection has been financed by the Gary Sanitary District (GSD) and the Civil City of Gary working together. The GSD has paid about \$2 million in tipping fees and another \$2 million in salaries for garbage collection employees, who were on the city payroll but were paid by the GSD. Purchasing and maintaining the trucks and other equipment used in garbage collection has been a function of the civil city. The garbage collection service has operated reliably for many years, until 2008, when the city claimed its employees had become undependable and garbage collection became erratic.

The City then signed a no-bid contract with Allied Waste to take over all garbage collection in Gary. Part of the cost of this contract would be paid by a user fee of \$12 per household (\$7 for seniors and the disabled). The MCC is suing the city because the fee was enacted by the appointed Sanitary District Board, not by the elected Common Council; and because the large contract with Allied Waste was not put out for open bidding. The City's Motion to Dismiss the suit has been denied and the MCC has filed a Motion for Summary Judgment..

Meanwhile, the rate being paid to Allied in the no-bid contract is \$21.17 per household per month, in contrast with a rate of \$15 per household which Allied charges for the same service in surrounding communities, like Lake Station. It looks as though the payments to Allied will total \$5,588,880 per year, with the expectation of an increase in the rate in future years. Meanwhile, 46 former garbage collection employees have ostensibly been laid off, but only 24 positions have been eliminated from the 2009 budget. This is what the City calls "reducing expenses".

There are many other areas which are worth investigation in the city budgets and the budget of the various subsidiary taxing units:

-Contract services deserve close scrutiny. Contracts to the Mayor's son for taking photos of the mayor have attracted widespread publicity. However, they represent a small portion of the total spent to hire attorneys and consultants. The city seems to have contracts with every lawyer in town. The City Attorney has a very small staff, so he contracts with private attorneys whenever legal services are needed. In addition, every board in the city has its own attorney. The Common Council has an attorney to argue with the City Attorney. The Township Advisory Board has an attorney to argue with the Attorney of the Township Trustee. The Airport Board, the Sanitary District, the Park Department, the Public Library and others all have their own attorneys, who do not appear in the salary budget but are paid with personal service contracts.

Distressed Unit Appeal Board  
January 2, 2009  
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-The Common Council is another extravagance. At a time when we are supposed to be cutting budgets, our local member on the council reports that its budget increased from \$1.2 million in 2008 to \$1.3 million in 2009. The nine council members each receive salaries of \$28,000 plus benefits. They are supported by a staff of nine persons, plus an attorney. The support staff includes a video technician and assistant technician, who are also paid to fill video technician slots in the salary budgets of other departments. In addition, each council person receives a substantial discretionary budget to dispense as he/she sees fit, even making grants to friends.

The City Clerk, who is in charge of keeping records and moving paper, has 44 employees. What can they all be doing?

-Hundreds of city employees are dispersed among dozens of departments, so that residents have a hard time finding who to consult with any specific problem, as a result no one can be held accountable for anything. A thorough overhaul of the government structure is needed.

In all, the city payroll (even without the contract employees) comes to one person for every 40 adults in Gary. Our position is that this situation can no longer be tolerated.

Very truly yours,



Douglas M. Grimes, President  
Miller Citizens Corporation

## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** Wendy McLaurin [wmclaurin@ci.gary.in.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 06, 2009 3:45 PM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Gary needs you help and prayers  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image002.gif

I am a citizen of the City of Gary and would like to ask that you strongly consider the proposal give you by Mayor Clay and the citizens of Gary. We can not afford to loose one police officer or firefighter in this city, and the other city departments have been stripped to the bare minimum. When city employees are laid off that means higher unemployment for the City of Gary, higher unemployment means higher crime, and higher crime means lost of businesses. We need a second chance and I believe it is in your power to give that to the citizens of this city.

Thank you,

*Wendy McLaurin  
City of Gary  
401 Broadway Suite B-7  
Gary, Indiana 46402  
219-881-1374  
219-881-1370 Fax  
wmclaurin@ci.gary.in.us*

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December 30, 2008

Distressed Unit Appeals Board  
State House Room 215  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Board:

We are rental property investors in the city of Gary, IN. We own 10 homes in the town and are facing possible bankruptcy if the tax cap is not put into effect. I'm not even talking about turning a profit, but only paying our expenses. The taxes on our properties are over 7% of the value of each home EACH YEAR. This makes it impossible to even cover the yearly expenses of maintaining these homes.

We have been working in Gary for several years now, and would like to continue to do so. Gary officials' lack of budget management is forcing us into deep financial debt – one we will not soon recover from. If they continue to ask for extensions and are granted leniency, why would the current practices ever change? We must put an end to the inefficiencies now.

We have discussed this issue with other property investment owners in Gary, and we all share the same response. We simply cannot continue to do business at this rate. When will it end???? We cannot afford another year of these high tax rates.

As is probably common, we are not willing to put this on our company letterhead for fear that our business will be further harmed.

Sincerely,  
Property Investors of Gary, IN

THE LAW OFFICE OF  
**GREGORY S. REISING**

607 South Lake Street  
Suite A  
Gary, IN 46403

Telephone (219) 938-8080

Toll Free (877) 524-0292

Fax (219) 938-8097

December 31, 2008

Stephanie N. Russo  
Executive Assistant to Ryan Kitchell and Chris Ruhl  
Indiana Office of Management and Budget  
State House Room 215  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

In Re: City of Gary, Indiana request for relief  
to the distressed unit appeal board

Dear Ms. Russo and Members of the Distressed Unit Appeal Board:

I am sending you this letter to express my opposition to relief requested by the City of Gary, Indiana to the Distressed Unit Appeal Board. I am sixty-six years of age and a life time resident of Gary, Indiana.

Gary, Indiana was founded in 1906 by the United States Steel Corporation. From the moment of its inception until 2004 United States Steel Corporation was the largest single tax payer in the City of Gary and it accounted for between 35 and 50% of the total revenue of the city.

In 2004 the Indiana State Legislature, at the request of the members of the legislature from Lake County, Indiana, stripped the authority of The Calumet Township Assessor to assess the United States Steel Corporation Plant in Gary. As a result of those actions the city of Gary now receives less than 10% of its total tax revenues from the United States Steel Corporation. Naturally, this marked a shift in the tax burden to the home owners of Gary, Indiana. The home owners, through an association, lobbied for change with the State of Indiana and received a 2% tax cap on residential property.

This led to the city of Gary receiving less taxes than it had received even after the US Steel tax breaks.

Presently the Gary Works facility of the United States Steel Corporation is assessed for less value than the Ross Township Assessor believes that Southlake Mall Shopping Center in Hobart, IN should be assessed at.

Be that as it may, after initiating the 2% tax cap for residents of Lake County, the state began to expand the role of the cap to a statewide application, lower the cap, and applied caps to non-single family homeowners and commercial property.

The city of Gary has come to you seeking the ability to break this cap because of financial

distress.

However, the financial crisis of the city of Gary has many other causes. To name but a few:

1. The incredible reduction in United States Steel Corporation's taxes.
2. The continual decline in the population in the city of Gary. Gary's population peaked in the early 70's at around 180,000 and today has less than 95,000 citizens. The city's population loss is, if anything, accelerating.
3. Lack of fiscal restraint by local governmental units. Virtually every department head, and many sub-department heads, in the city of Gary has a leased car, a cell phone, and many have access to city credit cards. The city has a Office of Deputy Mayor which it does not need, the Mayor has a press secretary, the city has a Director of special events, the city has a CEO, and the city council has a staff of one person for every elected council member. These are but a few of the inefficiencies that operate in the city.
4. The city has not dealt with its population loss by taking appropriate steps to proportionally cut its employment, police department, fire department, number of parks it has in its system, and similar facilities.
5. During the 70's and 80's the city built many facilities with federal funds all of which now have to be maintained and are under utilized or non-utilized.
6. After the opening of casino boats in the city in 1995 the city used the proceeds of the casino boats to build additional facilities and upgraded some of the facilities that have been built in the 70's and 80's. All of this simply increased the maintenance budgets for the city of Gary, but created no revenue.
7. As it admitted in the presentation it made to this board, the city used casino boat monies to fill-in for loss revenues after the 2004 legislation rather than actually cutting its budget.

There could be no doubt that Gary, Indiana is a city in distress. However, suggesting that the solution is to increase tax rates is sheer folly. The underlying problem with the city of Gary is that it is losing population. Without a reversal of this trend the city of Gary will die. Anyone who thinks that breaking the tax cap will somehow reverse this trend is guilty of simple foolishness. Higher taxes on our homes, our rental properties, and our businesses, will only exasperate the problem of people leaving the city. What is needed is for the city to learn to live within its budget, for the city to learn that it is no longer a large important American city but a city in a fight for its life.

The federal funds of the 70's and 80's did not work, the casino funds of the late 90's and early 21<sup>st</sup> century did not work, increasing taxes to a higher level than the rest of the state of Indiana will not work. The city of Gary has been given ample opportunity to attempt to spend its way out of its problems and it has failed. It is time to put the city's feet to the fire and force it to take the steps that it needed to take long ago, and not continuing to spend money on pipe dreams that they believe will somehow revive their city.

For example, the city of Gary has spent millions and millions of dollars in the last thirty years trying to get the Gary Airport to be Chicago's third airport. The Gary airport has neither the land nor the resources nor the position to become chicagoland areas third airport. It does have private

DECEMBER 29, 2008

INDIANA OFFICE OF  
MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
#212 - DISTRESSED UNIT APPEAL BOARD  
200 WEST WASHINGTON STREET  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

DEAR MEMBER,

I OBJECT TO THE APPLICATION OF THE CITY OF GARY, TO SUSPEND STATE LAW AND OBEDIENCE TO GARY TAXPAYERS, WHICH YOU ARE TO CONSIDER AT YOUR JANUARY MEETING.

MAY I REQUEST THAT THE BOARD GIVE FULL CON-  
SIDERATION TO THE NOTORIOUS EVIDENCE OF  
WASTE, CORRUPTION, MISMANAGEMENT AND NEGLIGENCE  
IN OUR CITY GOVERNMENT.

THE HISTORONICS AND DRAMATICS OF THE AD-  
MINISTRATIONS IRRATIONAL APPEAL, IN THE NAME  
OF OUR CITY IS DISGRACEFUL AND REJECTED BY  
OUR CITIZENS, WHO UNDERSTAND THAT THE DIS-  
CIPLINE IMPOSED BY TAX CAPS IS VITAL TO EFFECT  
PROSPERITY IN OUR CITY.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY, TO OUR CITY AND STATE  
IS CLEAR - DO NOT SHORT CIRCUIT, STATE PRO-  
TECTION TO TAXPAYERS IN THE CITY OF GARY,  
INDIANA.

THANK YOU.

JIM NOWACKI  
PO BOX 2571  
GARY, INDIANA 46403

(708) 502-2339



## **Russo, Stephanie**

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**From:** Sconiers [gigeronimo@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 06, 2009 4:09 PM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Gary , Indiana

Please do not raise the tax cap enough is enough they have squandered and squalor-ed and refuse to down size until January 1 , the city of Gary was running a night club and still is paying for a semi pro baseball teams staidum The city needs to sell it' baseball stadium and airport and shut down Roosevelt highs school and utilize Gary's West side high and shutter more schools and get all the friends and family that have already retired and working for the city of Gary off the payroll.

I'm retired and my rent in midtown Gary is \$649 a month and my utilities Gas and light is \$150.00 with my telephone Internet is \$120. Car note \$250.00 insurances \$71 Medical \$172.35 a month food \$175 for me and my wife gasoline \$80.00 per month .

That's not all you can help keep those thieves hand out of my pocket we can just barely make it as it is and the land lord has said if he gets an increase he will pass it on to the tenants.

Please vote no to more of the same horse shit racketeering do not lift the tax cap make them downsize!

Silas G Sconiers  
1336 Washington Street Apartment 102  
Gary , Indiana 46407-1222  
219-880-1811

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/life-in-gary-%2C-indiana>

<http://www.mogulus.com/sconiers>

<http://naacforum.ning.com/profile/Sconiers>

## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** PastorBruno [realfood@brunosorganics.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 06, 2009 5:01 PM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Gary's Appeal  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

Mayor Clay has put up bill boards with his own picture on them. City hall is covered in clocks with his picture purchased with my tax dollars. Now he wants to raise my business property taxes so he can waste it some more. He needs to be removed.

Ron and Pam Bruno and Family  
Brunos Organics, LLC.  
"Real Food the Way God Intended"  
[www.brunosorganics.com](http://www.brunosorganics.com)  
Fresh from the Farm and Hot from the Oven Home Delivery!!

**Russo, Stephanie**

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**From:** mcceaton@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 06, 2009 9:57 PM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Gary request for property tax relief

I understand that you are still welcoming comments from the public concerning the Gary request for relief from property tax caps. I will probably have other comments in the future based on discussion at the DUAB public hearing on January 5.

At the moment, I offer only a quick comment on a peripheral issue. At the hearing there was some discussion about saving money by closing the city's swimming pools, and the city predicted that budget austerity would eventually force the closing of six out of eight pools. During this discussion, I remembered that the city has often had problems getting the swimming pools open, and I discussed the matter this morning with a person who was familiar with the subject. He stated very strongly that last summer NONE of the city's swimming pools was ever open.

In this case, austerity is in the past, not the future.

Thomas Eaton  
8540 Oak Avenue  
Gary, IN 46403

[mcceaton@aol.com](mailto:mcceaton@aol.com)

## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** Homehab@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 07, 2009 12:00 AM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Gary's plight

Indiana Distressed Unit Appeals Board. Please do not buy in to Mayor clay's plea for higher taxation for business owners. Business owners are already struggling with the down economy and can not bear this unfair burden on them. I have noticed that every one thinks all small business owners are rolling in cash. It just isn't so. What happened to the promise of a 2 and 3% cap for landlords and business owners. Continue to tax us, we will go out of business and with it will go more jobs and income taxes. . Tax the landlords and we will stop investing, walk away from our investments. This will create additional lost Real Estate tax revenue, vacant houses, no housing for renters and decreased property values for the neighbors. There has to be a better way. Job reductions, pay freezes, or reductions for government employees just like the rest og the business world.

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New year...new news. Be the first to know what is making headlines.

## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** Homehab@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 07, 2009 12:34 AM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Continued tax comments

This is to continue the comments I just sent. Not a computer expert and it stopped typing for me. I have written before as the owner of a rental property. As I indicated in my earlier letter I will have to walk away from my property and the bank will be taking over. Another house on the auction block. I have other rentals and I have worked for nothing the last two years, drawing money from what's left of my pension 401K I put up with dead beat, dirty, abusive renters and higher taxes are my reward. Like any other business person I can not and will not work for nothing, put my resources at risk and continue to have the government take my money and not be prudent and responsible. Just drive around Gary, look at the 4000 vacant houses not paying taxes. There are going to be a lot more, including mine if the elected officials, paid by taxpayers can't find a better way. It doesn't matter how many signatures Mayor Clay brought to your meeting. It's time to look after the people that create jobs in the community, work hard and take the risks. Thanks for taking the time to read this. I hope you do the right thing.

, David Bonander

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New year...new news. Be the first to know what is making headlines.

## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** nglenn [nglenn@netnitco.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 07, 2009 12:58 AM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Fw: city bailout -- a.k.a. our taxes go up

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

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**To:** [nglenn@netnitco.net](mailto:nglenn@netnitco.net)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 06, 2009 10:26 PM  
**Subject:** city bailout

The lady they hired as a consultant spokeswoman earned her 40 thou last week. She was running up and down city hall helping everybody write their letters. They worked on them almost all day on the clock. They werent given a choice.

**Russo, Stephanie**

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**From:** nglenn [nglenn@netnitco.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 07, 2009 7:20 AM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Fw: E-mail-A-Friend: Gary buys new SUV for mayor

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

**From:** <christopher1965@sbcglobal.net>  
**To:** <livia507@gmail.com>; <nglenn@netnitco.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 07, 2009 1:52 AM  
**Subject:** E-mail-A-Friend: Gary buys new SUV for mayor

>  
>  
> **Comment:**  
> This is symbolic of the problem. It is also part of it.  
>  
> ---  
>  
> **Story:**  
> Gary buys new SUV for mayor  
> Cash-strapped city drops \$30K for new Hummer  
>  
> GARY | A day after pleading with the state for a financial lifeline for  
> his city, Gary Mayor Rudy Clay defended inking a deal for a new city-paid  
> Hummer.  
>  
> "What do you want me to do, walk around here?" Clay asked Tuesday. "I've  
> got to have a car."  
>  
> For more of this story, click on or type the URL below:

>  
>  
> [http://www.nwitimes.com/articles/2009/01/07/news/top\\_news/doc8fb54f8d8028635c862575370009634a.txt](http://www.nwitimes.com/articles/2009/01/07/news/top_news/doc8fb54f8d8028635c862575370009634a.txt)

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> [4cb0aa9723e2fcd59b9e65c24b1236f8], it's needed to view information  
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> <http://abuse.townnews.com/?MailID=4cb0aa9723e2fcd59b9e65c24b1236f8>

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## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** andrea basarich [abasarich@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 07, 2009 7:34 AM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Fw: DANGEROUS: (Why is there no money? Where is it going?)

there needs to be accountability for these departments. He has a point. I have been to City Hall and have seen offices full of workers doing nothing at all.

--- On Wed, 1/7/09, nglenn <[nglenn@netnitco.net](mailto:nglenn@netnitco.net)> wrote:

**From:** nglenn <[nglenn@netnitco.net](mailto:nglenn@netnitco.net)>  
**Subject:** Fw: DANGEROUS: (Why is there no money? Where is it going?)  
**To:** Undisclosed-Recipient@yahoo.com  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 7, 2009, 12:07 AM

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

**From:** Jack Lund  
**To:** nglenn  
**Sent:** Monday, January 05, 2009 10:31 PM  
**Subject:** DANGEROUS: (Why is there no money? Where is it going?)

How many times must we be reminded that *there is no money for road repairs or maintenance, and that none is in sight?*

How many times must we be told that *we must first pay the salaries and wages of the city's employees, whether or not they work?*

Indeed, why does anyone have any real expectation of city services, given the city's track record?

Surely it is far more important (don't you see?) to pay salaries, wages, free gasoline for "everybody" (who has the temerity to claim it as their due), to have a videographer/photographer recording the activities of this do-nothing mayor, to hand out hundreds of thousands of dollars to councilmen, so that they can in turn give that money to their special friends, or for their pet projects (whether or not those projects have any value or sense to them, whatsoever), to provide free vehicles to anyone who has the clout to claim the "right" to one, to fund do-nothing departments, meaningless 'czars' for parks and cleanups that go without remediation or betterment, and more, and on and on?

What does it matter that streets are dangerous, whether from potholes or from the lack of adequate policing, jailing, or a court to process offenders? This is Gary, after all, and we can hardly expect to receive honest services - can we? Or *can* we?

Is there anyone who can and will address the question of how we can find out (for example) how much money has been spent by each city department this past year? How much in salaries and wages, alone, is due each week henceforth (also by departments)?

How many people are on the payroll in each department? What their actual jobs entail - that is, what they do when they have no money for street repairs, no money for garbage pickup, no money for repairs to their necessary vehicles, and no money for anything except salaries and wages for people who can do nothing for the city's citizens because they lack money to carry out their missions?

Who can answer these questions, who can take this inventory, who can figure out the shortest method of paring



down expenses to match available revenues - not over the course of the next several years' time, but *right now*, before the city is in fact broke?

I suppose some of these questions are naive, but I, for one, can't figure out why we don't already have the information at our fingertips. (The answer may lie in that the lady in charge of the money couldn't even answer how many millions (was it three? four?) that the city owes Gary Sanitary District - so that it would seem to be totally unrealistic to expect her to be able to provide the answers I and others seek relative to why there is no money to do anything past paying wages and salaries.

Why don't we all ask *anyway*?

At 08:11 PM 1/5/2009, you wrote:

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

**From:** [BIRDLADYMI2@aol.com](mailto:BIRDLADYMI2@aol.com)

**To:** [panthermom27@comcast.net](mailto:panthermom27@comcast.net) ; [nglenn@netnitco.net](mailto:neglenn@netnitco.net)

**Sent:** Sunday, January 04, 2009 11:50 PM

**Subject:** DANGEROUS

*I have sent the same message to city, other departments and definitely Nora, since she gets the word plus those two are not even road, or street anymore. County Line is very dangerous but not as dangerous as Clay Non Street from 15th Avenue to Central Avenue. I also stated that dirt roads, in the county, are better to drive on as these two are main "thoroughfares" which have damaged many vehicles.*

*BirdLady*

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New year...new news. Be the first to know what is making headlines .

## **Russo, Stephanie**

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**From:** Norma Griffard [jngriff53@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 07, 2009 10:15 AM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Re: Rudy Clay Needs To Go!

A day after meeting with your board, pleading for money, Mr. Rudy Clay had the gall to walk out that door and purchase a new SUV. I beg you to read this article, and click on the link after reading it, to read the many comments left behind.

This man has no concern for his city, It affects all of us in Lake County. He draws two salaries, has six body guards, and actually is bragging in this article. Please do something about this crook for a politician. He is a disgrace to his own community.

I beg also, that you do an internal investigation of money being squandered by him and his cronies. It is deplorable. It is no different that what Rod Blagotivich from Illinois is doing to his own state.

Mr. Clay does not need six body guards, if he truly was doing his job. Today, there is also an article in the Post-Tribune how one police officer was found during a police chase to not possess a license and has a history of breaking the law. They will not comment on the lack of his blood test, as required by law, two hours after being involved in a crash, chasing a stolen motor vehicle. He also has to prior arrests for breaking the law. Meanwhile, they are putting him behind a desk with pay. How is that being treated as someone who broke the law, compared to a private citizen being arrested and put behind the bars? We need a federal investigation to look into the many misgivings on how this city is being run.

Rudy Clay is not capable of running that city, He causes his own homeowners/citizens to suffer as if they need to live like they do, while asking for more tax money. This is deplorable! Unacceptable, I would love hearing back from you.

All of Lake County is sick and tired of bailing out the very people who screw their own people all for the sake of "symbolism". I say check their books, deny them any reprieve until you hold a federal investigation into Rudy Clay and his books. He shouldn't be allowed to collect an additional \$30,000 a year, not stepping foot in that capacity but maybe twice. People in Lake County are sick of bailing out Gary!

[http://nwitimes.com/articles/2009/01/07/news/top\\_news/doc8fb54f8d8028635c862575370009634a.txt](http://nwitimes.com/articles/2009/01/07/news/top_news/doc8fb54f8d8028635c862575370009634a.txt)

### **Gary buys new SUV for mayor**

BY CHRISTINE KRALY

[ckraly@nwitimes.com](mailto:ckraly@nwitimes.com)

219.662.5335 | Wednesday, January 07, 2009 | 32 comment(s)

GARY | A day after pleading with the state for a financial lifeline for his city, Gary Mayor Rudy Clay defended inking a deal for a new city-paid Hummer.

"What do you want me to do, walk around here?" Clay asked Tuesday. "I've got to have a car."

That car is a 2009 Hummer H3 purchased recently by the city, to be paid in three yearly installments totaling about \$29,970, city spokeswoman LaLosa Burns said.

On Monday, Clay and a slew of city and county officials pitched a case before the state's Distressed Unit Appeals Board to provide Gary relief from new property tax caps.

One member of that panel charged with deciding Gary's fiscal fate cast doubt Tuesday that Gary has proven its need for state help if it still is buying automobiles.

"It's disappointing to learn this the day after Mayor Clay asked the Distressed Unit board to raise the property tax caps," said Ryan Kitchell, chairman of the appeals board and director of the Indiana Office of Management and Budget. "We will only consider doing so after the city has cut all that it can. The new Hummer and testimony presented yesterday clearly show that much more spending can be cut."

More than 30 Gary residents submitted comments to the board opposing the bailout, some of which lambasted the city for funding the boxy vehicle.

One letter read: "I find it repulsive that this administration would be asking for relief while Mayor Clay continues to drive a Hummer, a noneconomical, gas-guzzling vehicle at the taxpayers' expense, which is equivalent to the CEO's of the Big Three automakers coming to Washington in their corporate jets asking Congress for a bailout."

On Monday, panel member Mark GiaQuinta, of Fort Wayne, said the letters he has seen tell him that Gary residents want to see "profound change" before the city is granted any relief from the tax caps.

"I frankly have read all I want to read about a Hummer," GiaQuinta said. "But I do think, to some degree, symbolism plays a role here."

Clay said Tuesday he felt the board was dismissing the Hummer as "a petty issue. They don't want to hear about it, and I don't blame them."

The mayor's wheels have been a hot-button topic among some residents for years since Clay rode into office in his own Hummer H3. He is reported as saying that version ran the city about \$26,000.

Though he expressed frustration in doing so, Clay defended his vehicle choice Tuesday, saying, "I put my own gas in this Hummer. It's one of the cheapest SUVs. So what's the problem?"

"There's a bigger issue than the Hummer I'm driving," he said. "We've got major, major financial issues over here in Gary."

In their plea to the appeals board, Gary officials have asked for four years to cope with new tax caps, which are projected to siphon \$30.3 million from the city's 2009 budget.

"I don't want to continue to make a mountain out of a molehill," Clay said, noting that he voluntarily took a 20 percent pay cut in the midst of the city's fiscal meltdown.

Not only is his vehicle fuel efficient and requires little upkeep, Clay said, but it also saves Gary residents cash.

"We're saving taxpayers money by riding in a Hummer," he said. "I could've bought a \$50,000 Expedition

## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** Norma Griffard [jngriff53@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 07, 2009 11:08 AM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Here's more proof for you, written in the comment section of NWITimes.com

" I am a Gary Cop and this man is truely disgusting. I was there when he first took office and he and his cronies came to our police garage and left with approximately eight of our new unmarked crown vic's to give to his city hall employee(friends)to never be seen again. when we (police officers) were short vehicles.

Then he got the first Hummer, Why? is he too good to drive one of the crown vic's?? That buy the way were already paid for, so no need to waste the tax payers money to pay his payments on the first Hummer.

Or, to save more tax money why not drive the old mayors already paid for Ford Expedition?? I guess that would make to much sense. So lets just give that truck to another hard working city hall employee. It's all about the mayor "getting mines" attitude. On our dime!!

now a new Hummer WOW, Sombody please send help!!!!!!!!!! "

LEE BOTTS  
6235 HEMLOCK AVENUE  
GARY, INDIANA 46403  
219-938-2863 [leebotts@sbcglobal.net](mailto:leebotts@sbcglobal.net)

December 22, 2008

Distressed Unit Appeal Board  
C/o Indiana Office of Budget and Management  
200 W. Washington  
#212  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

To Whom It May Concern:

As a fulltime resident and taxpayer in the City of Gary, I urge rejection of the request for exemption from the property tax limit set by the General Assembly for the following reasons:

The city's plan does not fully account for how the city has used or plans to use the many millions of dollars worth of federal and state grants that it has received in the past and seeks for the future. .

The plan does not justify the high costs of government in this city compared to other cities of its size and population. Nor does it even express any intention of improving the existing poor delivery of city services and many failures to maintain or improve the failing physical infrastructure.

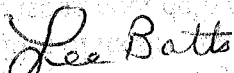
Rather the plan seems designed to support the culture of nepotism and cronyism that has been the prevailing mode of operation that has brought the city to its current plight.

I am among the many Gary residents that believe that the city must be forced to restructure and reform its governance, even at the cost of total collapse..

I recognize the challenge that bankruptcy of this city will pose for the State of Indiana and Gary residents but believe that allowing it to happen may be necessary to force the fundamental changes necessary for the city to survive and thrive.

In summary, please do not accept the plan submitted by the City of Gary nor allow the increase in property tax rate that it seeks.

Yours truly,

  
Lee Botts

December 28, 2008

Indiana Office of Management and Budget  
200 W. Washington St #212  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Re: Gary's Appeal

Mr. Kitchell:

I am a citizen of Gary, and this City is in dire straits. Money will not fix this problem. We need a change in leadership.

First, my water bill is \$107.00, sewer \$110.00 and garbage pick-up \$12.50. Now the Mayor wants to raise the cap. The only way I will agree to this will be if the increase will reduce my water, and sewer bill and pay for garbage pick-up. If not I say no way.

Further, I want the mayor to explain why he paid two different prices for garbage cans, \$40.50 & 50.50. Then can the Mayor explain why he has a council woman as a compliance officer with an assistant there is not enough work for two actually three because the council has a person doing the same job. None of these people earn this money. The council woman was asked by a citizen about a project she said, "you can't expect me to know everything, but, I will look into it, she never called back.

Now lets look at personnel, he has Clare in his office that you need to ask for her job description, Chief of Staff, what does she do? Joel Rodriguez, Chris Meyer, dual H R departments, John McCloud Matte Fitzgerald, Caren Jones, Thalia, working on campaign while at City Hall, Tom Yancy, and several people in Finance. Now, if he can justify these positions and salaries then I'm all for the city receiving help.

The Mayor has to reduce the bloated payroll.

Let's talk about the unfinished buildings, green house and GSD. Charles Prewitt another waste of contract, as well as Pat Lee. Both drawing two checks. Renzer has the contract to the golf course, conflict, he is the governing body that approve contracts. Look into the contracts as well.

I am not for Mitch Daniels, however, he has been reelected and I do believe he will force this Mayor to clean house.

Next please intervene before he reduces our fire and police, departments.

## **Russo, Stephanie**

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**From:** Joseph Feagin Sr [elderjoseph@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 07, 2009 2:07 PM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** DISTRESSED UNIT APPEALS BOARD

Dear Stephanie Russo,

I am a concern citizen opposed to the appeal that the city of Gary is filing. I would like to know to whom can I contact to let my opposition be known. Thank you, Joseph Feagin Sr.

## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** elderjoseph@sbcglobal.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 07, 2009 3:03 PM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** E-mail-A-Friend: Gary buys new SUV for mayor

**Comment:**

Attn: Stephanie Russo

Also, maybe you can bring this article to Mr. Mark GiaQuinta's attention.

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**Story:**

Gary buys new SUV for mayor

Cash-strapped city drops \$30K for new Hummer

GARY | A day after pleading with the state for a financial lifeline for his city, Gary Mayor Rudy Clay defended inking a deal for a new city-paid Hummer.

"What do you want me to do, walk around here?" Clay asked Tuesday. "I've got to have a car."

For more of this story, click on or type the URL below:

[http://www.nwitimes.com/articles/2009/01/07/news/top\\_news/doc8fb54f8d8028635c862575370009634a.txt](http://www.nwitimes.com/articles/2009/01/07/news/top_news/doc8fb54f8d8028635c862575370009634a.txt)

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## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** joan rolek [joanv@att.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 07, 2009 3:59 PM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Gary, Indiana

My husband and I moved to our home in Gary in 1992. We are retired senior citizens and registered voters. I do not understand why the state government would consider us as ineligible for the tax cap which the rest of the residents of the State of Indiana will receive. It does not seem fair that we should give more to Gary's city government to misuse and waste.

It almost makes me want to move back to Illinois where we paid our taxes for many years and had good schools and paved streets. But, we love our neighbors and hope we are not forced to leave.

GOODDAY TO ALL:

DEC 29<sup>TH</sup> 2008

SUBJECT MATTER: CITY OF GARY BAILOUT PLAN.

PLEASE DO CONSIDER ASSISTING THE CITY AND THE CITIZENS WHO GIVE ALL THEY HAVE TO KEEP THE CITY AFLOAT.

THE CITY HAS HAD MORE CONTRAVERCY THAN ITS FAIR SHARE. THE WORKING CLASS HAS BEEN TRAPPED IN WHAT WE KNOW AS THE DRUG/WAR LORDS. IN THIS BATTLE THEY ARE WINNING. THAT IS POINT #1 AS TO WHY WE MUST MAINTAIN THEIR LAW ENFORCEMENT FORCE. THIS LEVEL OF SUCCESS

AFFECTS ALL SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES IN WHICH THEY PLAY A VITAL ROLE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. THE BURDEN OR FAULT IS NOT THEIRS ALONE, YET THE ACCUSING FINGER TRIES TO BLAME THE CITY ALONE.

I HAVE SEEN CITIZENS PULLING WEEDS AND PICKING UP TRASH ON PUBLIC PASSAGE WAYS IN AN ATTEMPT TO MANUALLY CLEAN UP THE CITY. MAKING A DIFFERENCE IS WHAT I BELIEVE THE MOVEMENT TO BE. THEY ARE KIND & CONSIDERATE

TO VISITOR'S OF THEIR FAIR CITY. THEY HAVE YOUR  
BACK WHENEVER THEY RECOGNIZE DANGER  
APPROACHING. WHEN VISITING THEIR NEIGHBORS  
TO TAKE A BREAK OR A TIME OUT - THE MANNERISM  
IS CONSIDERATE - FRIENDLY AND AS IT'S KNOWN STRAIGHT  
UP.

THE PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED ARE BEGINNING  
TO WORK IN WHICH MANY CHILDREN DESIRE TO  
GROW UP AND BECOME POLICE OFFICERS - FIRE FIGHTERS  
NURSES AND DOCTORS. IF THE OPPORTUNITY (BAILOUT)  
IS GIVEN THEY (GENERATIONS) KNOW THEY CAN ③

MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT HOME (CITY) BY SUCCESS-  
FULLY REACHING THE ONES THAT CREATE CONFLICT  
WHETHER THEY BE FAMILY - FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR.  
THIS IS A FAVORABLE MOVE OR AS IT'S KNOWN  
A WIN / WIN FOR US ALL. ④

NOTE: PLEASE DO RELAY TO SURROUNDING  
COMMUNITIES TO STOP TRYING TO STEAL  
THEIR LAND AND STOP BLAMING THE CITY FOR  
THEIR SELF MADE PROBLEMS. I STAND ON BOTH  
FRONTS AND BRING YOU THE TRUTH. DEPT OF JUSTICE # 126671

When you ready

**Russo, Stephanie**

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**From:** Roosevelt Allen [allenrx@lakecountyin.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 07, 2009 4:47 PM  
**To:** garychamber@garychamber.com  
**Cc:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** City of Gary-Property Tax Caps

Chuck Hughes, Executive Director  
Gary Chamber Of Commerce  
Gary, Indiana

Dear Chuck,

As county commissioner of the first district, I am adamantly opposed to the Distressed Unit Appeals Board raising property tax caps for businesses in the city of Gary. The current businesses in the city are struggling to remain solvent and raising the property tax caps would encourage those companies to relocate. Additionally, prospective businesses that might consider locating in our city would select other adjacent locations outside the city to avoid the increase in taxes. The success or failure of Gary, in my opinion depends on our ability to create an environment conducive to economic development. Any subsequent increase or decrease in stable jobs in our city is directly correlated with our ability to attract new companies and also to maintain our current businesses. I am opposed to raising tax caps for the businesses, especially small businesses.

Sincerely,  
Roosevelt Allen Jr.  
First District County Commissioner

## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** police\_chief@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 07, 2009 8:02 PM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** FW: DENY GARY BAILOUT ASSISTANCE!

Stephanie,

Please pass this information to the Chair of the Distressed Unit Appeals Board. Thanks.

--

Douglas M. Wright, Chief of Police (Retired)  
(219) 939-0631 Residence  
(219) 902-6963 Cell  
(219) 939-0654 Fax

----- Forwarded Message: -----

**From:** [police\\_chief@comcast.net](mailto:police_chief@comcast.net)

**To:** [srusso@sbs.in.gov](mailto:srusso@sbs.in.gov)

**Cc:**

[llouderman@thecarlton.net](mailto:llouderman@thecarlton.net), [abasarich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:abasarich@sbcglobal.net), [rloplano@jorsm.com](mailto:rloplano@jorsm.com), [londonjack@sbcglobal.net](mailto:londonjack@sbcglobal.net), [ystoffregen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ystoffregen@sbcglobal.net), [gtegarden@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gtegarden@sbcglobal.net), [buckpr@aol.com](mailto:buckpr@aol.com), [pccolander@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pccolander@sbcglobal.net), [nnglenn@netnitco.net](mailto:nnglenn@netnitco.net), [LSimon@lockelord.com](mailto:LSimon@lockelord.com), [kathyannlong@yahoo.com](mailto:kathyannlong@yahoo.com), [crab7749@sbcglobal.net](mailto:crab7749@sbcglobal.net), [willielbrown@yahoo.com](mailto:willielbrown@yahoo.com), [kweiss@mbakercorp.com](mailto:kweiss@mbakercorp.com), [mduguerre@aol.com](mailto:mduguerre@aol.com), [jebelles@comcast.net](mailto:jebelles@comcast.net), [collinsjvi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:collinsjvi@sbcglobal.net), [jgerber724@earthlink.net](mailto:jgerber724@earthlink.net), [homehab@aol.com](mailto:homehab@aol.com), [alexis.banks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alexis.banks@sbcglobal.net), [karensoliver@yahoo.com](mailto:karensoliver@yahoo.com), [williamcoward01@att.net](mailto:williamcoward01@att.net), [elderjoseph@sbcglobal.net](mailto:elderjoseph@sbcglobal.net), [thequeenayanna@yahoo.com](mailto:thequeenayanna@yahoo.com)

**Subject:** DENY GARY BAILOUT ASSISTANCE!

**Date:** Mon, 5 Jan 2009 08:07:18 +0000

Stephanie Russo:

I have just completed reading 55 pages of letters, emails and articles sent to you to pass to the Distressed Unit Appeals Board for consideration during their deliberations on the fate of Gary's presentation for assistance. Let me join those folks in providing information for their perusal and consideration. In addition to the many eloquent pieces offered - please consider these additional missteps (mistakes) of the Clay administration:

- (1) Any funds expended on the Sheraton renovation, e.g., Kupritz and his associates, the former executive director for the Gary-Hammond-East Chicago Empowerment Zone, and others.
- (2) The 'secret deal' with representatives of the Miami Indians (and Clay's Guest Editorial) explaining the need for secrecy.
- (3) The park adjacent to city hall
- (4) The sales trailer acquisition for the Sheraton condo sales (still there and still costing money)
- (5) The extra-large banner on the Sheraton structure
- (6) Billboards located at 15th Ave and I65, and along I90 west of Grant Street
- (7) The 'Job Resource Center' in city hall staffed by an elected county official at \$30,000 plus salary

- (8) \$62,000.00 annual salary for an incompetent parks superintendent (formerly the cleanup czar)
- (9) \$735,000.00 for abestos removal from the Sheraton (required employment of one gary citizen for each \$35,000)
- (10) \$35,000 salary for employee to 'find good news' about Gary.
- (11) Vehicle and gasoline furnished to elected officials with their own budgets and employees
- (12) Take home vehicles and gasoline used solely for transportation to and from work for department heads
- (13) Unpaid \$16 million dollar loan from the Gary Sanitary District.

There are other concerns regarding the financial instability of our city. I am confident that the citizens making the trip to appear personally before the Board will mention them. In view of these items and the 55 pages of information you have already received, I join them in asking the members of this Board to deny any assistance to the City of Gary until it shows competence in its administration and frugality in its spending.

--

Douglas M. Wright, Chief of Police (Retired)  
(219) 939-0631 Residence  
(219) 902-6963 Cell  
(219) 939-0654 Fax

## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** KRISeKRIS00@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 08, 2009 9:27 AM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Have we really heard enough?

At the meeting, Mr. GiaQuinta said that he had heard all that he cared to about Clay's Hummer, and that relative to the City's larger financial problems, it wasn't that important. Evidently Clay misconstrued that statement to be approval for him to spend more money on his personal transportation.

151 reader comments below;

Joe Average wrote on Jan 8, 2009 8:11 AM:

" Real Gary Resident (aka I'll vote for anything as long as its the same as we had before):  
No, the problem stated with Hatcher, not King. The city has been in a tailspin for decades.  
AS for us keeping our comments to ourselves, no, we can't. You're beloved mayor keeps shoving the cities problems out onto the rest of us by asking us to foot the bill to fix your beloved city.  
IF Gary politics and problems would stay in the city, truthfully, you would get your wish and no one would care a bit about the place. "

A Real Gary Resident wrote on Jan 8, 2009 7:33 AM:

" Most of the people who comment on Gary don't even live in Gary. If you did don't live in the city anymore than you really need to keep your comments to your beloved cities. As for Clay, Yes in these hard times maybe it was too much of a luxury. But So What.... Get Over It. Remember Clay was not the one who put Gary in this trouble Remember Scott King who thought HE was the King.... Start there.... "

Rudy youre not in Colorado wrote on Jan 8, 2009 7:05 AM:

" HUMMERS are used to drive in rough terrain. I guess he needs it to drive over the dilapidated neighborhoods and neglected streets. "

Chuck D wrote on Jan 7, 2009 11:47 PM:

" I laughed my rear end off, reading this article. Mercy. "

trapped wrote on Jan 7, 2009 11:32 PM:

" you don't get it - he won't be there much longer. Here's a prediction:  
a. They don't get DU help - the board cites "wasteful spending" as an excuse  
b. They have no choice - the City falls into receivership - the state takes over.  
c. The state officials clean up the mess - Gary becomes the city it should've been 50 years ago.  
d. New elected officials take over - the state officials retreat back to Indy  
e. Over the next 10 years, Gary returns to the corrupt machine it is today. The whole cycle should take about 15 years.

Anyone remember East St. Louis, IL? "

Georgie boy wrote on Jan 7, 2009 11:01 PM:

" Now we know why GVT wants the top dem job in LC... he can upgrade from the stolen county gas and pickup truck to a new H3. "

Slats Grobnik wrote on Jan 7, 2009 10:30 PM:

" Hummer H3 mpg 14 city 18 mpg highway  
Chevrolet Impala 9C3 17 city 27 mpg highway

If Rudy used the Impala, the car could be used by Police or other city department when Rudy was done with it.

Hummer H3 has terrible resale value, Impala would not need to be resold. "

koop77yahoo.com wrote on Jan 7, 2009 10:20 PM:

" What was wrong with the old hummer?  
like he should of ever been driving one in the first place.

At this point with lay offs he should not even be looking at a ford escort!  
He should drive his own car to work like I do. Then get in one of the spare city cars that barley run. Then return to his own vehicle to drive home. And why are there bodyguards provided??? That is a waste also. Gary residents wake up go down state get this clown out of Gary and hopefully out of lake county if the state did a audit he might just be Blagojevic's cell mate. "

The city vehicle is a perk. wrote on Jan 7, 2009 10:06 PM:

" It just goes with the job as it does in a lot of major cities. The choice of vehicles is typically up to the office holder. The luxury of having a city owned vehicle is also part of his income. I wonder if hiz honor declares personal mileage on his state and federal taxes? Hey IRS man, are you listening? "

bet he look cool wrote on Jan 7, 2009 9:58 PM:

" it is all about ME, rudy

image

ego

! "

Sharita wrote on Jan 7, 2009 9:46 PM:

" We probably paying his nipsco bill too! That's more than the Hummer. "

Sharita wrote on Jan 7, 2009 9:35 PM:

" "What do you want me to do, walk around here?" Clay asked Tuesday NO, buy your own car like everyone else! Maybe I should ask my boss to buy me a car and that same crazy question! "

Mighty Right wrote on Jan 7, 2009 8:55 PM:



" Bad timing is the problem, not the vehicle. An H3 hummer is not much to scream about, it burns less gas than any V8 engine and is inexpensive as a choice for the elected executive. His defense of the issue was poor and he probably could have kept what he had, but an H3 is hardly an extravagant excess and its not even really a luxury vehicle. Bad choice to get a new anything now, but lets not act like an H3 is some type of over-the-top vehicle like a Denali or Escalade. Its not roomy, it's not large and just not worth the fuss. Bad timing is the problem not the vehicle. "

its gary wrote on Jan 7, 2009 8:50 PM:

" Where does this guy think he works/lives? Hollywood? I work AND pay for my own car, like most people. What makes him think, for any minute that he even deserves such a thing as an SUV - whats wrong with a regular car or public transportation? And as for his entourage...give me a break. "

Are you serious wrote on Jan 7, 2009 8:40 PM:

" Yes, a Hummer is cheaper than an Escalade. It's also cheaper than a helicopter. Glad you showed some restraint you egotistical, self-serving robber! "

REALLY wrote on Jan 7, 2009 8:24 PM:

" What an idiot. I'm embarrassed for him. "

whats next wrote on Jan 7, 2009 8:20 PM:

" What's next? Is he going to start receiving food stamps, too? Way to go Rudy! Keep taking away from the city you supposedly love. "

What a BUM wrote on Jan 7, 2009 8:08 PM:

" Hey Mayor what's wrong with your legs? Are they broke? Why don't you walk around the city you are supposed to be serving. See for yourself how the real world lives in your so-called city. He has the nerve when there are so many people out of jobs. Everyone should move out of Gary then there would be no need for a mayor. What this city needs is a new mayor to clean up the mess Rudy had made. I say impeach the bum he is no more of a mayor than I am. "

Ricomondo wrote on Jan 7, 2009 7:32 PM:

" The best thing that could happen is for the state legislature and Gov. Daniels to step in and dissolve the city of Gary. Any bordering city or town that wants to annex a piece of the former Gary gets to do so. Maybe then, there will finally be some economic turnaround, and the crime and quality of life issues will be addressed. "

Voters wrote on Jan 7, 2009 6:55 PM:

" When excesses like this are exposed to the public, voters feel like they have become nothing more then useful idiots for these politicians to manipulate. Nice job Rudy. "

Sick Tired of it all wrote on Jan 7, 2009 6:38 PM:

" Pretty soon you won't even need a mayor in Gary! Clay needs to fill his pockets before then. C'mon, don't you get it? This is, after all, Lake County!

I had hoped that CNN would investigate that crime ridden, cheatin city after the fiasco with the presidential votes. Maybe I'll remind them. "

Slats Grobnik wrote on Jan 7, 2009 6:04 PM:

" Yes Rudy, I do want you to WALK around Gary. Spend one hour each day and see with your own eyes the good, the bad, the dreams and possibilities of what Gary could be in the future.  
Talk to the citizens you are supposed to serve.  
Manage a budget that is less than or equal to the tax receipts.  
Be a leader that inspires. "

GFD SupporterDisgusted Resident wrote on Jan 7, 2009 5:49 PM:

" Mayor Clay instead of getting a new hummer, why don't you just get your driver to drive you around in one of the GFD fire engines that are falling apart piece by piece. You would have enough room for your so called bodyguards and you would not need a pace car to follow you around. As a resident, it is bad enough that you want to basically strip us of public safety because you claim they make up 31 million of your so called budget, but yet somehow, the same City who is begging for a handout, somehow found the way to get you a new hummer. How can you be so smug, if you think the board is gonna just hand over money to you now, think again, that's a big joke just like you are. I hope the State comes in, saves our fire and police departments, give us decent roads to drive on, maybe a snowplow or two, since I never see one in my neighborhood, and PUTS YOUR CROOKED BUTT IN JAIL WHERE IT BELONGS AND THROWS AWAY THE KEY!!!! "

Spectacular... wrote on Jan 7, 2009 5:41 PM:

" And residents of the city of Gary wonder why those of us living outside Gary think they're crazy, and lazy for not voting for someone else... ANYONE else. This fool is raking it in, rolling in a brand new ride and hiring his family for petty positions that pay what most people wish they could EARN. "

GFD MEDIC wrote on Jan 7, 2009 5:38 PM:

" Where is his old Hummer at? I think he's trying to keep up with the Jones.. Can anyone explain to me why Gary eliminated 6 EMT-B position because the city didn't have any money to pay their salaries and why is there broke down ambulance, fire trucks , and police cars that are not fixed..(But Rudy Clay can afford a 2009 hummer).....I hope the state gives him a penny..And come take over Gary.. "

Dude..... wrote on Jan 7, 2009 5:03 PM:

" Nah na na nanana! Rudy, Grow up you child! "

Whats the point wrote on Jan 7, 2009 4:57 PM:

" Why are we trying to take away all of the perks from those who have worked hard and have gained a little sucess in life. Is it not what the american dream is to get good grades in school, work hard, to get ahead in life so we can get the good job with all the perks. If those perks are not going to be there any more, I guess I will stop working so hard to get ahead. maybe quit my job and go on welfare. At least it will be low stress, with plenty of downtime. That must be what all the dems are trying to get us to do anyway. "

Party42 wrote on Jan 7, 2009 4:55 PM:

" Another crook in Lake County...imagine that! Get rid of this guy. Gary will never improve with a greedy Mayor like Clay. "

Laughable Situation wrote on Jan 7, 2009 4:47 PM:

" Does the mayor realize how ridiculous he looks in the eyes of people not from Gary. He needs to come back to the real world. Maybe that is why just about every government service in the city is in shambles. "

AZ Gunslinger wrote on Jan 7, 2009 4:24 PM:

" So Rudy says, What's the problem?

The problem is you Sir, are a Moron.

Why can't you drive a Crown Victoria, or what ever the State is bidding on as State and local squad cars, Impala or Charger. Just the word Hummer, even it is a 5 cylinder engine, or the Alpha model with the V8, just the word Hummer makes MOST people think of excessive waste.

Some things in Lake County will never change and Gary Politico's Bling is one. "

Useful idiot wrote on Jan 7, 2009 4:13 PM:

" I should think that at some point we will grow tired of being useful idiots to these politicians. "

GlenParker79 wrote on Jan 7, 2009 3:58 PM:

" Actually the price of the car isn't bad, I just don't think he earned it. I'm not mad at him though. If I was mayor I'd be rolling good too. Don't forget you all elected him, and it's easy to complain. It's time to do something. "

GFD wrote on Jan 7, 2009 3:51 PM:

" 2009 HUMMER H3 SUV

Starting MSRP \$33,390 – \$43,130

EPA Fuel Economy:

City: 13 – 14 Highway: 16 – 18

Available Engines:

239-hp, 3.7-liter I-5

300-hp, 5.3-liter V-8

Available Transmissions: 4-speed automatic w/OD

5-speed manual w/OD

\*\*\*\*Five year cost of Ownership\*\*\*\*

Cost Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
Depreciation	\$9,806	\$5,565	\$1,379	\$1,351	\$1,324	\$19,425
Fees & Taxes	\$1,543	\$114	\$117	\$103	\$109	\$1,986
Financing	\$1,476	\$1,189	\$881	\$552	\$200	\$4,299
Insurance	\$1,489	\$1,497	\$1,480	\$1,463	\$1,447	\$7,377
Fuel	\$2,176	\$2,253	\$2,333	\$2,416	\$2,502	\$11,679
Maintenance	\$100	\$100	\$178	\$1,475	\$178	\$2,029
Opportunity Cost	\$402	\$687	\$822	\$1,086	\$1,269	\$4,267
Repairs	\$0	\$0	\$498	\$746	\$1,244	
Yearly Totals	\$16,992	\$11,403	\$7,190	\$8,945	\$7,776	\$52,306 "

Re-Elect Rudy Clay wrote on Jan 7, 2009 3:50 PM:

" C'mon Gary voters, you know you will, you're not fooling anyone.

Rudy Clay D - yes, he'll get 4 more years, watch and see. "

Former Resident wrote on Jan 7, 2009 3:46 PM:

" After reading these comments if I were Mr. Clay I would be so embarrassed! But then that would mean he cared.... The damage he has done and continues to do to the city of Gary is shameful. Big cars, body guards, paid trips, who gets these kind of perks from their job? The police and fire departments should be the LAST personnel laid off. They run this city 24/7. Those of you who follow and support Rudy better wake up. "

another black oak boy wrote on Jan 7, 2009 3:38 PM:

" let me see, my streets never get plowed, our streets are all torn up, i can not even get trash pickled up every week without calling and complaining to the mayors office and Allied Waste. But this fool has enough city money to buy a new Hummer. Police patrols do not happen in Black Oak either. By the way who's paying for all the armed men in suits to walk with him to protect him. to bad they don't let somebody get ahold of him. And also what is with those side burns, those irritate me more then anything. "

Charles Hawkins wrote on Jan 7, 2009 3:37 PM:

" Again a politician out of touch with the people. Never a tax they don't like, never a cut that they would possibly make. Until we start voting out the incumbents we will continue to get the same uncaring actions from our elected officials. Vote out all incumbents. "

To Dear Mayor wrote on Jan 7, 2009 3:21 PM:

" How can you have the audacity to travel to Indianapolis and beg the DUAB to allow you to increase the tax levy on the businesses left in Gary? You then go out and let the city purchase a brand new Hummer? You just put a nail in the coffin for the city of Gary! "

ralph wrote on Jan 7, 2009 3:19 PM:

" Is this practice common? Do the other cities purchase vehicles for their mayors? What's wrong with a Prius? He is not hauling anything as part of his mayoral duties. "

Response to The Facts wrote on Jan 7, 2009 3:17 PM:

" Tell the person that just received that lay-off or job elimination notice that the \$29K spent on his NEW vheicle is not THAT BAD(It is more that they were being paid per year) "

Get REAL wrote on Jan 7, 2009 3:16 PM:

" I'm sick & tired of people in any place saying, "YOU VOTED THE BUM(S) IN!" People tend to vote based on politician's words. How can you blame them for voting for the person that fed the falsified hope of words? Impeach the idiot & drop it. Anyone is better than this numbskull. It's NOT the voters' fault. It's the lying politician's fault. And they all lie. "

Amused wrote on Jan 7, 2009 3:08 PM:

" I think Clay & his staff need investigated. This is ridiculous! I hope he finds that Hummer on blocks! "

I did my duty.... wrote on Jan 7, 2009 2:56 PM:

" I didn't just complain here, I copied it, news articles, comments and now I demanded the Board and the FEDS to investigate. Take your comments and do what I did, turn them via email to the Distressed Board and the Indiana Prosecutor's Office, States' Attorney He will be "walking soon". Just do it. "

JTV wrote on Jan 7, 2009 2:31 PM:

" Vote the bum out next time around and get a REPUBLICAN in there to do the job that needs to be done....clean out the garbage(Democrat politicians) that is destroying this once great city....if he gets voted back in, then Gary deserves the mess and so do its people.... "

millivanilli wrote on Jan 7, 2009 2:30 PM:

" as a miller resident, i am so ashamed, tired and disgusted with the city of gary, especially the administration and Rudy Clay.....c'on miller residents, let's separate our selves from this nonsense....Rudy Clay, you should be ran out of town..... "

Huh wrote on Jan 7, 2009 2:16 PM:

" What was wrong with the other Hummer anyway? "

Bill Owens wrote on Jan 7, 2009 2:10 PM:

" Of course, he could purchase/lease his OWN vehicle, like most people do . .but that would cost him personal income. And, he's taking a 20% paycut, but on which of the 3 positions he recieves a salary for from taxpayer's money? What a crook . .and he doesn't even realize it "

Gee wrote on Jan 7, 2009 2:03 PM:

" We have broke down police cars and fire trucks, dont forget laidoff f.d. p.d people and the mayor can buy a hummer. how many people have to die or have there house burn to the ground because the equipment needed is broke down, but thats ok rudy will see it when he drives buy in his new hummer if he's not scared to come to your part of the city. get the bum out of office. "

Good JOB mayor wrote on Jan 7, 2009 2:01 PM:

" Mayor Clay keep up the good work, maybe if you try hard enough the state will take over running the city, we can only hope so. "

biggie123 wrote on Jan 7, 2009 1:43 PM:

" I SAY AGAIN: someone call Scott King and get his take on this! "

Amazed...NOT wrote on Jan 7, 2009 1:33 PM:

" Are you actually surprised by his greed?? Let the taxpayers foot the bill for everything. Its not coming out of his pocket so he just doesn't care. Just another example of oh poor Gary.. if you elect the right officials than maybe you wont be oh poor Gary anymore!!!! I dont see the Mayor of Portage or Valparaiso riding around in a Hummer... Clay thinks he is SPECIAL!!! "

Gary residents wrote on Jan 7, 2009 1:31 PM:

" If you live in Gary you have no reason to be mad! You voted this joker in by a large margin knowing how crazy and selfish that he is. I wish the state would stop giving anything to Gary until a complete investigation can be completed. Time to give the FEDS a call again! "

So whats next wrote on Jan 7, 2009 1:11 PM:

" As if it's not enough that the city has to pay for such a ridiculous choice of a vehicle, it is probably the least fuel efficient and I can only imagine what the city will pay for insurance in that Gary zip code! How can he even make a case to justify this purchase after pleading for money for the city and telling the people that they cannot afford appropriate police and fire protection. Not only is he hurting the citizens of Gary, but each and every community around Gary and the county as well. There must be some savvy individual willing to help the people take on this arrogant man and have his position recalled or impeached or something. What is he really doing to improve anyone else's quality of life? "

Susan wrote on Jan 7, 2009 1:08 PM:

" Why can't he drive his own car and submit mileage used? He still could have bought a more economical car. Better off, drive an unmarked squad car, then he can see how his city workers have to cope with old, unsafe equipment while he drives in the lap of luxury. What a joke he is. "

I know what Mayor Clay needs wrote on Jan 7, 2009 1:02 PM:

" a good doctor and the right medication. "

To Concerned Taxpayer wrote on Jan 7, 2009 1:01 PM:

" If you read the article closely. The 3 payments total \$29,970. Thats the TOTAL. But still he could have had a Jeep for less than \$20,000. Maybe even bought a 1 year old SUV would have saved alot of \$\$\$\$. He is a true LAKE COUNTY GOVERNMENT ELECTED OFFICIAL. "

Turk182 wrote on Jan 7, 2009 1:01 PM:

" Why not use a current city vehicle instead of buying a new one? "

Realisticly wrote on Jan 7, 2009 12:56 PM:

" No doubt by reading all the petitions/letters from Gary residents, Mayor Rudy just about did them a favor going down there crying poor. Fortunately, they will now be looking into him and his chronies. Way to go Clueless Rudy! "

With taxpayer money wrote on Jan 7, 2009 12:50 PM:

" He should buy his own suv. Funny, he can have a nice new vehicle while the rest of the city looks like crap! "

Daley wrote on Jan 7, 2009 12:47 PM:

" WHAT A GAS HOG! He would have been better off with a Tahoe or Yukon. Better gas mileage and better riding. He is just trying to pimp. He ain't nobody. Why does he need something like that anyway? Why not a mini-van? Why not a Jeep Liberty? Yet another reason Gary is in the situation it is in. PATHETIC MOVE. "

Rudy Ignorant Clay wrote on Jan 7, 2009 12:42 PM:

" 3 yearly payments that total \$30,000 or 3 yearly payments each totalling \$30,000?

Either way, buy your own blinking vehicle! I've driven the same cruddy car for 10 years, you can too! "

no surprise wrote on Jan 7, 2009 12:38 PM:

" The cost is small change compared with the taxpayer dollars that pay for the world travels of him, his wife and his entourage. By the way, what benefit did the city of Gary get out of all of that travelling? "

Take him out of office wrote on Jan 7, 2009 12:38 PM:

" Lets go there and yank him out of his job "

The Facts wrote on Jan 7, 2009 12:35 PM:

" I don't like Clay but get the facts straight. His Hummer only cost a total of 29K. It is much cheaper than many Available vehicles. It is a 5 cylinder and is better on gas than an Explorer or Taho. There are many more things to criticize Clay for but this one is not that bad. "

David B wrote on Jan 7, 2009 12:26 PM:

" Can't we just put this guy in jail for being an idiot? I can't believe it! "

Kim wrote on Jan 7, 2009 12:21 PM:

" HOW SAD!! LOOK UP IGNORANCE ANYWHERE & YOU'LL SEE A PICTURE OF RUDY CLAY! How can you go to Indy & beg for help & get a new hummer. Where's the FBI when you need them? Please indict him right away! "

Concerned Taxpayer wrote on Jan 7, 2009 12:08 PM:

" The number of people laid-off across the country, last I heard, was around 2 million, and that was a few days ago; I would not be surprised if that number has increased since then.

Considering the current state of the nation's economy and the current state of Gary, itself, and its surrounding communities, it makes little sense to accept a \$90,000+ Hummer that will be paid for with taxpayer dollars.

If you've been paying attention and had good reasoning skills, Mr. Clay, and I suspect you haven't and don't, you would put all of these facts together and realize that the smallest burden necessary would make the most sense.

I'm no politician, but I suggest you rescind your decision and either finance your own car or ask for something less expensive and more efficient.

People are losing their homes, cars, and investments on a daily basis! Last I checked, Mr. Clay, you still have a job. More than likely you still have a home. What makes you think the taxpayers are fit to foot your 3-year, \$90,000+ bill for your transportation?

Give us a break! "

NEEDS A HUMMER wrote on Jan 7, 2009 12:06 PM:

" The Mayor of Gary needs a Hummer. Hopefully it's a standard military model and not a consumer version. After all, the man lives in a war zone. Bomb the place and leave it for the cockroaches..... "

YAYA wrote on Jan 7, 2009 12:04 PM:

" GO RUDY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! "

Karl wrote on Jan 7, 2009 12:04 PM:

" You can have my 99 Saturn for free Rudy!!! "

Dobie wrote on Jan 7, 2009 12:01 PM:

" Doesn't he get a salary? I do but I have to pay for my own car. This guy has more brass than a school bell. "

Fed up wrote on Jan 7, 2009 11:58 AM:

" Why not maybe he needs to drive this around the city of Gary to look at all the poverty and all the Gary firemaen that have been laid off. What a slap in the face to all the laid off workers in Gary. GET RID OF HIM HE IS OUT.FOR HIMSELF. That money could have went t all the laid off workers, the hungry. thoes without electric, and gas, no food no medical insurance. do I need to go on. This man is using Garys money for himself. SOMEONE needs to wake up. WHO OKAYED THIS? Fire them to. "

JustDucky wrote on Jan 7, 2009 11:56 AM:

" Gary will save a lot of money if they'd call the only ambulance available to haul him away in a straight jacket. "

Margo wrote on Jan 7, 2009 11:55 AM:

" I grew up in Gary my husband says he resued me from there. King Rudy could have gotten a really good toyota for around 20, but he has to keep up with himself he must look in the mirror every morning and says how can i screw gary today "

Hold ON wrote on Jan 7, 2009 11:54 AM:

" Take the time to visit the website of the Distressed Unit Board. People of Gary & outlying counties are begging the board to send in the FEDS & deny ant money to GARY. Watch! Another Blago. "

Just a thought wrote on Jan 7, 2009 11:47 AM:

" I think the whole Gary area should be bought by someone & turn into wetlands, airport area & last but not least a garbage dump. "



wow this place wrote on Jan 7, 2009 11:46 AM:

" It looks like the Mayor has no regard to the people of the city. He is getting ready to layoff 71 to 110 Police and at least 71 firemen. The only way the city will ever turn around is if they invest in all the Public Safety departments and put a dent in the crime in the city. We need to ask ourselves this..Who will invest in the city if it is not safe? "

Word Nerd wrote on Jan 7, 2009 11:41 AM:

" This is disgusting. Why does he need a Hummer, much less a new one? What happened to the old one? Maybe they should give it to the fire department or the police to use.

Even if the Hummer was cheaper than another SUV, which I doubt, the message it sends is wrong. "

Fight Back People wrote on Jan 7, 2009 11:29 AM:

" So he can cut the fire dept and police personnel who's families are suffering as a result, but HE can ride in a spankin' new Hummer--the other one must be dirty. Sounds like a plan--something he can live in so he won't need the fire dept and he can run from the crime--like he does anyway. He is directly responsible for the condition of his city and there should be no reason he needs a Hummer, not to mention the group of thugs he employes to protect him. He says Gary is safe, so why does he need all this protection? It's a rotten shame he's letting the people of Gary down. He's only taking care of himself--nobody else. Shame on him !!! Come on folks, FIGHT BACK !!!!!!! "

Stupidity wrote on Jan 7, 2009 11:19 AM:

" This is the problem with Gary. Gary is led by bad leaders. Bad leaders create their own problems when they think they are better than their own citizens. No one serving the citizens are better than the citizens. Rod B. thought he was and you see what he had done to Illinois. The same goes for all leaders in all communities. Rudy Clay is from the school of crooks and his attitude started in the Lake County system, serving as one of the three Council People. This is why that city is in bad shape, as Scott King raped the city treasury in the same way, as an entitlement. Plain stupidity and shame. That man needs to go to jail, just like Rod B. "

Appauled wrote on Jan 7, 2009 11:18 AM:

" His own words: "We're saving taxpayers money by riding in a Hummer," he said. "I could've bought a \$50,000 Expedition."

Hey it would have been cheaper. As stated in the article, 3 yearly payments of \$29,970.00 That's \$89,910.00 nearly \$90,000.00 The man is a fool!

A crown vic or an impala like other town Mayors drive should have only been approved for purchase. The State best get him and his cronies out of office A.S.A.P. "

Orchid wrote on Jan 7, 2009 11:15 AM:

" "There's a bigger issue than the Hummer I'm driving," he said. "We've got major, major financial issues over here in Gary."

YOU THINK ???! Whoa, wait..NO HE DOESN'T ! "

He should buy his own car wrote on Jan 7, 2009 11:13 AM:

" He should buy his own car and his own gas like the rest of us. "

Rudy Get over yourself wrote on Jan 7, 2009 11:10 AM:

" Why can't he drive himself around in a 4-cylinder CAR!!!!!!!!!!!!!! "

GFD wrote on Jan 7, 2009 10:59 AM:

" The sad thing is that we have 3 of the city ambulances in the shop for repairs and only 1 left on the road. Several police cars our down because of lack of funds to repair them. How about spending money on things that we need instead of things that we don't. The city is losing money everday that a broken ambulance is sitting in the garage for repairs. Like I said, we have 3 in the shop. "

Homer Simpson wrote on Jan 7, 2009 10:57 AM:

" If were lucky, maybe that Hummer will fall into a big pot hole and disapear.  
Better yet inpeach Rudy Clay and get some one else to run the city of Gary. "

why wrote on Jan 7, 2009 10:56 AM:

" Why are the people of gary paying for the mayor to have a brand new hummer when some of them can't even afford a car for themselves? Many can't even find jobs to keep food on their tables. They still live in crime filled neighborhoods where people are being gunned down all the time. But instead of putting more police on patrol the money is wasted on a hummer. This is digusting and Rudy Clay needs to be impeached because Im sure he has done MANY unethical and illegal things while being the mayor of Gary. Speak up Gary and get this man impeached! "

biggie123 wrote on Jan 7, 2009 10:53 AM:

" Put the screws to the fire and the police all while rudy "superfly" clay rolls thru gary in a brand new hummer. Where the heck is Scott King when you need him? "

DUH wrote on Jan 7, 2009 10:52 AM:

" He needs bodyguards because he pulls assine stunts like this. He's afraid someone will pull a little Gary street justice on him!! "

Hummmm-er wrote on Jan 7, 2009 10:52 AM:

" rudee clay is my hee-ro "

sunshine wrote on Jan 7, 2009 10:47 AM:

" Well, he did it again. I have lived in Gary for over 45 years in the same house and in the same neighborhood. Seen many mayors come and go. Clay is up there with those who have made dumb choices. How can the state be asked for help when he is constantly showing he really does not care about the city? Why does he keep spending money the city does not have? Why does the council allow this? This man is all show - when he is put out of office what will be his legacy? "I spent it my way!" If gary gets no help, thank the mayor with the hummer. Maybe the council needs to be looked at also - they refuse to lay off people in their offices but it's ok to let go of those who protect the citizens. Good management! Wake up before it is too late! "

P OWED wrote on Jan 7, 2009 10:47 AM:

" Ever heard of a mini-van? Holds more people than a Hummer. "

Me wrote on Jan 7, 2009 10:45 AM:

" Does anyone know what was wrong with the other Hummer? If I remember correctly, it was just about 2 years old. Boy, I sure wish that I could have the city buy me a new car every two years!!!

"What do you want me to do, walk around here?" Clay asked Tuesday. YES!!! Maybe then you wouldn't be so apt to cut public safety. If he has to have a car buy a more economical one, and don't lie to everyone and say the H3 is the cheapest SUV. The Saturn Vue has a base price of \$23,400 with estimated mileage at 26 MPG compared to the H3 at \$34,600 and 18 MPG. Gee Mayor Clay, you really did your research to help the city out didn't you!!! Mayor Clay is WORTHLESS, and is stealing every dime from the taxpayers of Gary. "

Tiffany wrote on Jan 7, 2009 10:40 AM:

" I actually like the part where the Mayor says " I put my own gas in it, whats the problem." Of course he can put the gas in it, he does not have a car payment like the rest of us!!!! What an idiot!!!!!!!!!!!!!! "

TAX PAYER wrote on Jan 7, 2009 10:36 AM:

" This has to be a hoax. Rudy would never do this. He knows he can take the bus or call a taxi if push comes to shove. "

cindy g wrote on Jan 7, 2009 10:35 AM:

" So the City of Gary has spent about \$56,000 for the two Hummers the Mayor has had. I'm driving a 5 year old Sonata that ran me about \$20,000 and it's still getting me to work and I don't have any financial problems. Rudy should be ashamed of himself. He should get a cheaper car and buy a razor to get himself out of the 70's. He looks like something that rhymes with the word "wimp." "

Unbelievable wrote on Jan 7, 2009 10:35 AM:

" The Mayor gets a new Hummer, besides the fact there was nothing wrong with the old one. I'm a Gary Firefighter, we are using rigs that are over 20 years old, on a very busy department (7000+ fire calls last year)I never know if the rig is going to pump at a fire, let alone even get there. Mayor Clay, it's all about perception. I have no doubt the H3 may be a relatively economical vehicle, but the perception attached to it scream excess and eccentricity. Especially when other, more important vehicles are ignored. "

Sickened in Gary wrote on Jan 7, 2009 10:17 AM:

" The man is arrogant. His lack of concern for the declining condition of his City is more evident than ever. "

TREE1 wrote on Jan 7, 2009 10:04 AM:

" This is typical Lake County. Rudy belt tightening needs to start with you. Don't go asking for money you already obviously have! "

Educated wrote on Jan 7, 2009 9:52 AM:

" To READER: What a racist comment! Well, what can I expect, coming from NWI and all. "

Black oak renter wrote on Jan 7, 2009 9:31 AM:

" Tell me if I'm wrong but isn't Black Oak a part of Gary? We have no sewers, the homes have septic. We have no city water, we have wells. We have no sidewalks or curbs. The streets are full of tire eater potholes, some streets are nothing but gravel. When it rains, you might well be driving through lakes. We have been looking for an affordable home to purchase but why would we purchase a home in Black Oak and pay property taxes to this city when it is obvious that the city has loooong forgotten this community. We're better off looking in Hammond. At least the streets, sewers and city water is available and in better condition for our use. At least we will see where are tax money is going to. Don't know if I will ever see Rudy Clay driving through Black Oak in his Hummer, although I may see the effect his emissions are making on the city. "

Typical wrote on Jan 7, 2009 9:29 AM:

" Gary got what Gary deserved. What do they expect by electing yet another Democrat into office. "

Denise wrote on Jan 7, 2009 9:28 AM:

" OMG!!!! I didn't know he really had body guards, I thought that was just a joke. What a shame, that city was built on so much sweat and hard work. I remember going to work on Saturday mornings with my dad on 13th and Massachusettes, driving all the way down Broadway. He was so proud of where he grew up. Not so much, anymore. "

Yugo wrote on Jan 7, 2009 9:26 AM:

" Why can't Mayor buy a Yugo or even something more energy friendly. A Hummer? Please all show! Gary people should revolt! Hey Mayor, is your Hummer bullet proof? What's the extras on it? Heated seats, "

Sick wrote on Jan 7, 2009 9:23 AM:

" Gary at it's best. Get rid of the BUMMM! "

Vote for Clay wrote on Jan 7, 2009 9:22 AM:

" If he runs again the uneducated voters in Gary will ensure he gets another turn to continue the destruction and pilfering he of public funds. "

JustDucky wrote on Jan 7, 2009 8:59 AM:

" A mayor should just drive his own car and get reimbursed for mileage.

Get rid of the body guards. What is he, Prince of Tides? All about bling & symbolism. He needs to be removed from office immediately. "

Please Help Us wrote on Jan 7, 2009 8:51 AM:

" I am a Gary Cop and this man is truly disgusting. I was there when he first took office and he and his cronies came to our police garage and left with approximately eight of our new unmarked crown vic's to give to his city hall employee(friends)to never be seen again. when we (police officers) were short vehicles.

Then he got the first Hummer, Why? is he too good to drive one of the crown vic's?? That buy the way were already paid for, so no need to waste the tax payers money to pay his payments on the first Hummer.

Or, to save more tax money why not drive the old mayors already paid for Ford Expedition?? I guess that would make to much sense. So lets just give that truck to another hard working city hall employee. It's all about the mayor "getting mines" attitude. On our dime!!

now a new Hummer WOW, Sombody please send help!!!!!!!!!! "

MVP wrote on Jan 7, 2009 8:44 AM:

" Rudy Clay is not connected to reality, which brings into question Clay's mental fitness to be mayor.

This guy is clearly not connected to reality and has made numerous comments that prove this point. He's said, Gary has no problems to fix, Gary is not a violent city, and now this, "What do you want me to do, walk around here?" and "There's a bigger issue than the Hummer I'm driving," "We've got major, major financial issues over here in Gary."

All of the above comments indicate being out of touch with reality and some degree senility, which the State legislature should question of Clay. "

What a Joke. wrote on Jan 7, 2009 8:42 AM:

" Hummer making perfect sense is rediculous. Gary needs to wake up and Demand for an impeachment investigation. The city is getting deeper and deeper in debt, in bad reputation, corrupt politics. New Orleans hasn't recovered because of their Mayors bad decisions, Gary is on the same path as they are,The people needs to do something NOW.

Dumb Club:

" Has anyone checked to see if Rudy Clay And Rod Blagojevich are Related ?? " You forgot one,New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin. "

Citizens of Gary wrote on Jan 7, 2009 8:38 AM:

" You have the leadership you voted for and because of that, NO BAIL OUT FOR YOU! "

JvD wrote on Jan 7, 2009 8:38 AM:

" The once proud city of Gary should not have to put up with this. No more empty suits with empty promises. Unacceptable. "

CP res wrote on Jan 7, 2009 8:38 AM:

" I understand the outrage of this Hummer for Rudy but let's face it, it's a distraction from what's really up in Gary, in reality the Hummer is pennies compared to the larger issue of the cities funding. It's a poor choice by the mayor to be sure, but citizens need the same passion and anger over the real issues in Gary. Get involved in the bigger picture, where is your money being spent Gary? Accountability anyone? "

Not Enough Car For Me wrote on Jan 7, 2009 8:35 AM:

" I believe Mayor Clay showed restraint in his vehicle selection. If I had to drive around Gary I would want an Abrams A1/1A. "

Jack wrote on Jan 7, 2009 8:29 AM:

" I live for the day when Gary goes bankrupt and ceases to exist. "

Vanity wrote on Jan 7, 2009 8:25 AM:

" Good thing the mayor still has his vanity. I mean, come on, being able to roll in a Hummer at least makes him feel good. The rest of us see the character flaws he really has.

City of Gary residents: take responsibility for your actions. "

Impeachment wrote on Jan 7, 2009 8:18 AM:

" If the City council approves this they should be impeached as well. The arrogance of Clay. If the people of Gary have to sacrifice so should he. Not just the price of the Hummer, but fuel consumption as well. A compact car would have showed the State and the people of Gary that he actually cars. "

MSDV wrote on Jan 7, 2009 8:15 AM:

" Every time that I think that it getting bad it gets worse. "

Reader wrote on Jan 7, 2009 8:11 AM:

" Clay...Burriss...Obama, the three stooges and a bunch of show-offs! "

putty wrote on Jan 7, 2009 8:07 AM:

" Those suggesting a small fuel efficient car for the mayor haven't driven around Gary lately. The potholes would surely swallow a small vehicle. The Hummer makes perfect sense. "

J.D. wrote on Jan 7, 2009 8:01 AM:

" Woulda at least been nice to spend the money, buying a vehicle from a business in the city. The same businesses he's trying to jack the taxes 5.5%.

Oh, there are no new car dealers in the whole city.

The new higher tax rate is sure to attract new business.....what a Mayor...haha

Milking the small business that does exist, leave them nothing for improvements and maintenance. No new roof, sign or fence, etc. Soon they'll all be in the same boarded up condition as the others that were once there....ATTA-BOY "

Buy Used from a Car Lot wrote on Jan 7, 2009 7:59 AM:

" I'm sure there's a car lot somewhere in Gary or nearby where you can buy a used dependable vehicle to drive around town in. What a waste of \$\$\$. I hate Hummers - they look like a tank on wheels. "

Denise wrote on Jan 7, 2009 7:55 AM:

" Are you kidding me??? I am originally from Gary and live in Springfield, IL. Our Mayor pays for his own vehicle, as he should!! Whatever he chooses to drive, he pays for. Big deal that Clay took a 20% pay cut if he is charging the already "broke" city his luxury car payment. As far as his self serving comment, "do you want me to walk around here?" Did he run for mayor with no vehicle? What he is doing is an absolute shame. Maybe Mr Clay has aspirations of running for Illinois Governor some day!!! He would fit right in, bilking the taxpayers on his ego. Get your fire engines running first, Mr. Mayor. By the way... my stepfather, step grandfather both retired for the GFD with more then 50 years. Shame on you!!!! I saw what they had to drive and that was 20 years ago!!! "

dave wrote on Jan 7, 2009 7:54 AM:

" rudy way to go, you've provided a perfect exmapple of why gary needs no relief from property tax caps and why the tax caps need to be made permanent this year. taxpayers don't forget the deomcrates already reduced the impact of the tax caps so we are not getting the full benefits we should yet. "

Angry Resident wrote on Jan 7, 2009 7:50 AM:

" He took a 20% pay cut, bought himself a new Hummer, and still receives his 30,000 dollar salary for doing nothing at the Sanition District. We don't have money to keep from laying off police and fireman, but he still has all of his body guards that need to roll with him. What a Joke. I wonder if Obama is going to replace the black Tahoes with black Hummers just because Clay did it. "

23 inch wrote on Jan 7, 2009 7:46 AM:

" What? No special wheels? The Hummer dealership is the same as the one that sells Escalades! I am SO embarrassed! "

Good Lord wrote on Jan 7, 2009 7:45 AM:

" "What do you want me to do, walk around here?" Clay asked Tuesday."  
Yes. Yes, we DO want you to walk around here, then maybe you'll actually see the idiotic decisions (The Sheraton anybody?) you've made for a city that was already corrupt, depressed and marginalized. "

Wladziu wrote on Jan 7, 2009 7:38 AM:

" If this isn't the proof Gov. Daniels was looking for that Gary can't take care of itself and needs state intervention, I don't know what is. Seriously, there's no defending this. "

Dumb Club wrote on Jan 7, 2009 7:33 AM:

" Has anyone checked to see if Rudy Clay And Rod Blagojevich are Related ?? "

Still Mad wrote on Jan 7, 2009 7:20 AM:

" Politicians thumb their noses at us every chance they get...just another example. "

WHAT wrote on Jan 7, 2009 7:15 AM:

" What was wrong with the black hummer he had... not bullet proof????? "

1234 I declare wrote on Jan 7, 2009 7:13 AM:

" I we really surprised about this? "

Chops wrote on Jan 7, 2009 7:13 AM:

" The city of Gary has not purchased squad cars in over three years and this clown buys himself a Hummer with city funds, unbelievable. I hope the distressed unit board tells Clay and the city of Gary to go pound sand. "

Unreal wrote on Jan 7, 2009 7:03 AM:

" This would make perfect sense.....In the Bizarro World! "

DUMB wrote on Jan 7, 2009 7:01 AM:

" I can't believe it, what kind of "dumb" person would do this? A car is one thing but a 10mpg hummer is another. "

Bubba Ween wrote on Jan 7, 2009 6:59 AM:

" With the state Gary's in, he should be driven in a 3 year old Chevy Aveo. It's not like he's off-roading. What a loser. "

Hammond wrote on Jan 7, 2009 6:52 AM:

" Why does he need a Hummer? We all know that driving flashy SUV's is a status symbol. What do you think that Clay is telling the tax payers of Gary? He has asked them to pay more for his vehicle than some of them earn in a year. That is insulting. I think that if he really cared about Gary and it's financial problems, he would have asked the city to purchase a less expensive vehicle. Or better yet, buy your own and have the city pay you mileage like companies do. He would have to drive alot of miles to \$30,000. "

not a expedition wrote on Jan 7, 2009 6:44 AM:

" Bought a hummer could have been a Ford Expedition. GOD IS GOOD "

Bob wrote on Jan 7, 2009 6:39 AM:

" Not to worry. Senator brown is putting a statewide smoking ban as his top agenda. Gary's problems will all be solved as Chicago gamblers will hopefully all be buying gas in Gary on their way to the Indian casino in Michigan. The extra gas tax might be enough to keep Gary busses running. "

NWI resident wrote on Jan 7, 2009 6:07 AM:

" I've seen it all now...Rudy, I hope you lose your job you wanna-be politician "

wolfie wrote on Jan 7, 2009 5:18 AM:

" Only in Lake county is this arrogance accepted. "



unreal wrote on Jan 7, 2009 5:06 AM:

" I spent 30 grand so I'm saving the citizens money. That gives great insight into why Gary is so screwed up. "

Great job wrote on Jan 7, 2009 4:48 AM:

" Kudos to NWI TIMES for exposing Mayor Clay for the fraud he is. To spend the taxpayers money so carelessly in the middle of financial ruin is heinous. Great job of obtaining the smarmy quotes from Mayor Superfly. "

What wrote on Jan 7, 2009 4:36 AM:

" What a lunatic...did you see him on Fox News defending the other Hummer? Cavuto made him look like a moron. He said that he deserved the Hummer because, according to some other mayors, has a "tough job". Well I guess the people of Gary have no one to blame except themselves if they vote this clown in again, and the people of Griffith have no problem justifying getting out of Calumet Township as long as this fool stays in office and makes stupid decisions like this one. "

millerbeach wrote on Jan 7, 2009 4:32 AM:

" Saving taxpayers money? Rudy, you are truly delusional. I hope the state sees through all this garbage and sends you back to Gary without an extra penny in your pocket. Your behavior is almost as embarrassing as the governor of Illinois. "

WOW wrote on Jan 7, 2009 4:12 AM:

" Is anyone really surprised. "

Turk182 wrote on Jan 7, 2009 3:35 AM:

" The man's gotta keep up his image. He still has to pimp it up with some 24" rims, dvd players and a custom stereo, so add another \$20,000.00 to the price. "

james woodward wrote on Jan 7, 2009 2:46 AM:

" Whats wrong with a Ford Escape, a used one 2-3 years old, they're roomy and fuel? What I think this guy really needs is a white wagon, with a driver and an aide in white coats to just take him away once and for all. "

Well... wrote on Jan 7, 2009 2:36 AM:

" Disgusting. That's all I can say about Clay. Total disregard towards his city.

So he took a little cut from his pay. He holds two different positions.

Goes before the Distressed Board and does this. "

THIS IS GREAT wrote on Jan 7, 2009 2:14 AM:

" I cannot wait for all the great comments to come out of this story..I cant believe that i am even reading this story the day after i read the story about how much in need Gary is for money. Maybe next he is going to buy some 26 inch rims for the hummer... "

unbelievable wrote on Jan 7, 2009 12:41 AM:

" you could have also bought a Ford Focus for about \$15,000, was it really necessary to buy an SUV? I guess maybe so seeing how great the roads are in Gary. "

**Post a comment Once your comments are approved, they will appear here.**

Name: [      ]  
Email: (

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New year...new news. Be the first to know what is making headlines.

## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** aboobokar@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 08, 2009 10:45 AM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Cc:** nhoffa@aol.com  
**Subject:** Fwd: Distressed BD letter  
**Attachments:** Distressed BD.doc

You may already have this report in opposition, the first half appears very well written and echoes some of the same concerns our group in Miller has had in obtaining accurate fiscal data from the city of Gary. Is there any way you can confirm that Paul Wyman and other board members have received a copy? Please let me know if you could not open document.

Thank you,  
S. Haake

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

**From:** nhoffa@aol.com  
**To:** aboobokar@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thu, 8 Jan 2009 8:37 am  
**Subject:** Distressed BD letter

Did you see this? Very well written.

---

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# **Distressed Unit Appeals Board**

**A statement and response in opposition to the request by**

**The City of Gary, Indiana**

For Hearings January 5, 2009

**Submitted by**

**Richard Barnes, Ph.D. and Carole Barnes  
Gary, Indiana**

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The City of Gary, Indiana, has requested relief from the Distressed Unit Appeals Board by being exempt from legislative tax caps on property taxes.

The City of Gary has claimed that they cannot function under existing law and that they should be exempt from property tax caps due to take effect in 2009.

Meanwhile, property tax payers claim that there Gary municipal government is poorly administered, that cuts in the number of employees and superfluous expenditures have yet to be made, and that increased property taxes, especially in this economy, would have dire effects upon the residents, homeowners and taxpayers of the City of Gary where 25.8 percent already live below the poverty line (compared to the State of Indiana where 9.5 percent live below the poverty line.)

We speak in opposition to any requests for exemption from the City of Gary for relief from the Distressed Unit Appeals Board, to change the tax cap formulas established by state statute.

## **Russo, Stephanie**

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**From:** John Vinzant [john.vinzant@vinzantsoftware.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 08, 2009 11:32 AM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Follow-up Question to City of Gary DUAB Hearing

Hi Stephanie;

I attended the DUAB hearing on Monday and have a question about procedure.

Is it possible that the DUAB can entertain or mandate an alternative solution to the one suggested by the City of Gary on Monday?

I ask this because the Gary request, at the end of the process, would leave the City isolated, ungoverned and ungovernable (lack of public safety and administration). This result is not a good solution for those of us who live here.

I can think of two alternative plans, neither of which would require a suspension of caps, both of which would leave the city in a much more live-able condition, and place it in a better situation to recover economically.

Thank you for your time.

John Vinzant  
8937 Lake Shore Drive  
Gary, IN 46403  
219-942-9544 Office  
219-938-1997 Home  
219-381-1764 Cell  
[john.vinzant@vinzantsoftware.com](mailto:john.vinzant@vinzantsoftware.com)

## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** Rushenberg, Tim  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 08, 2009 8:12 PM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Fw: Gary Indiana

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

**From:** Jocelyn & Larry Rogers <rogers.larry@comcast.net>  
**To:** Rushenberg, Tim  
**Sent:** Thu Jan 08 19:58:55 2009  
**Subject:** Gary Indiana

Dear Sir,

Please take the time to read the attached newspaper article and, in particular, the comments of the citizens of Gary and Northwest Indiana that follow the article. Please don't give Rudy Clay and leeway and don't let them raise the property taxes on us. Rudy Clay is incompetent and the Sate of Indiana should take control of the city. If he is given more money to spend he will only buy a larger SUV and pay his son more to take pictures of his father at the city's expense. Someone has to stop the madness!!

[http://www.thetimesonline.com/articles/2009/01/07/news/top\\_news/doc8fb54f8d8028635c862575370009634a.txt](http://www.thetimesonline.com/articles/2009/01/07/news/top_news/doc8fb54f8d8028635c862575370009634a.txt)



## Gary buys new SUV for mayor

BY CHRISTINE KRALY

[ckraly@nwitimes.com](mailto:ckraly@nwitimes.com)

219.662.5335 | Wednesday, January 07, 2009

GARY | A day after pleading with the state for a financial lifeline for his city, Gary Mayor Rudy Clay defended inking a deal for a new city-paid Hummer.

"What do you want me to do, walk around here?" Clay asked Tuesday. "I've got to have a car."

That car is a 2009 Hummer H3 purchased recently by the city, to be paid in three yearly installments totaling about \$29,970, city spokeswoman LaLosa Burns said.

On Monday, Clay and a slew of city and county officials pitched a case before the state's Distressed Unit Appeals Board to provide Gary relief from new property tax caps.

One member of that panel charged with deciding Gary's fiscal fate cast doubt Tuesday that Gary has proven its need for state help if it still is buying automobiles.

"It's disappointing to learn this the day after Mayor Clay asked the Distressed Unit board to raise the property tax caps," said Ryan Kitchell, chairman of the appeals board and director of the Indiana Office of Management and Budget. "We will only consider doing so after the city has cut all that it can. The new Hummer and testimony presented yesterday clearly show that much more spending can be cut."

More than 30 Gary residents submitted comments to the board opposing the bailout, some of which lambasted the city for funding the boxy vehicle.

One letter read: "I find it repulsive that this administration would be asking for relief while Mayor Clay continues to drive a Hummer, a noneconomical, gas-guzzling vehicle at the taxpayers' expense, which is equivalent to the CEO's of the Big Three automakers coming to Washington in their corporate jets asking Congress for a bailout."

On Monday, panel member Mark GiaQuinta, of Fort Wayne, said the letters he has seen tell him that Gary residents want to see "profound change" before the city is granted any relief from the tax caps.

"I frankly have read all I want to read about a Hummer," GiaQuinta said. "But I do think, to some degree, symbolism plays a role here."

Clay said Tuesday he felt the board was dismissing the Hummer as "a petty issue. They don't want to hear about it, and I don't blame them."

The mayor's wheels have been a hot-button topic among some residents for years since Clay rode into office in his own Hummer H3. He is reported as saying that version ran the city about \$26,000.

Though he expressed frustration in doing so, Clay defended his vehicle choice Tuesday, saying, "I put my own gas in this Hummer. It's one of the cheapest SUVs. So what's the problem?"

"There's a bigger issue than the Hummer I'm driving," he said. "We've got major, major financial issues over here in Gary."

In their plea to the appeals board, Gary officials have asked for four years to cope with new tax caps, which are projected to siphon \$30.3 million from the city's 2009 budget.

"I don't want to continue to make a mountain out of a molehill," Clay said, noting that he voluntarily took a 20 percent pay cut in the midst of the city's fiscal meltdown.

Not only is his vehicle fuel efficient and requires little upkeep, Clay said, but it also saves Gary residents cash.

"We're saving taxpayers money by riding in a Hummer," he said. "I could've bought a \$50,000 Expedition."

## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** nglenn [nglenn@netnitco.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 08, 2009 11:55 PM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Fw: Rudy Clay buys New Hummer!

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

**From:** Gary Votes  
**To:** nglenn Nora  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 07, 2009 7:49 AM  
**Subject:** Rudy Clay buys New Hummer!

**There is a report in Wednesday's Times that the City of Gary has purchased another Hummer for Rudy Clay!**

Text furnished below:

BY CHRISTINE KRALY  
[ckraly@nwtimes.com](mailto:ckraly@nwtimes.com)  
219.662.5335 | Wednesday, January 07, 2009 | [22 comment\(s\)](#)

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residents want to see "profound change" before the city is granted any relief from the tax caps.

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**Russo, Stephanie**

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**From:** KRISeKRIS00@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 08, 2009 5:11 PM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Fwd: More of Gary's lies

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**From:** KRISeKRIS00  
**To:** rkitchell@sba.in.gov  
**Sent:** 1/8/2009 2:42:26 P.M. Central Standard Time  
**Subj:** More of Gary's lies

When challenged by a member of the DUAB board, they confirmed that they outsourced the garbage service to Allied Waste. They said that they laid off the workers and that some of them went to work for the new vendor. Then it came out that they actually transferred some of the drivers to laborer positions. Unfortunately, very little of what they said is true. In fact, just earlier this afternoon, I saw two City of Gary garbage trucks, Unit #s 219 and 225 parked on a side-street doing nothing. They were there for close to 2 hours. They are not even supposed to be used any longer. The Allied contract went into full force January 1, 2009. The drivers of these trucks, along with the co-drivers, were all Gary workers. (Allied workers wear a different uniform.) No drivers or other sanitation workers have been dismissed unless they were some of the very few that did go to work for the vendor. Barely any of them were able to pass the background checks or drug tests or CDL requirements.

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**A Good Credit Score is 700 or Above. See yours in just 2 easy steps!**

## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** andrea basarich [abasarich@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 09, 2009 8:21 AM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Fw: The Audacity of Rudy

--- On Fri, 1/9/09, nglenn <[nglenn@netnitco.net](mailto:nglenn@netnitco.net)> wrote:

**From:** nglenn <[nglenn@netnitco.net](mailto:nglenn@netnitco.net)>  
**Subject:** Fw: The Audacity of Rudy  
**To:** Undisclosed-Recipient@yahoo.com  
**Date:** Friday, January 9, 2009, 12:11 AM

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

**From:** Pete  
**To:** [nglenn@netnitco.net](mailto:nglenn@netnitco.net)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 07, 2009 5:41 PM  
**Subject:** The Audacity of Rudy

"God is Good" "We're saving taxpayers money by riding in a Hummer," he said. "I could've bought a \$50,000 Expedition."

The ODD-ASSITY of Rudy!!!!!!

What was the matter with the old one? I just can't believe this guy, What is he smoking?

Gary buys new SUV for mayor

- [Story](#)
- [Discussion](#)

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BY CHRISTINE KRALY

[ckraly@nwitimes.com](mailto:ckraly@nwitimes.com)

219.662.5335 | Wednesday, January 07, 2009 | [108 comment\(s\)](#)

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One letter read: "I find it repulsive that this administration would be asking for relief while Mayor Clay continues to drive a Hummer, a noneconomical, gas-guzzling vehicle at the taxpayers' expense, which is equivalent to the CEO's of the Big Three automakers coming to Washington in their corporate jets asking Congress for a bailout."

On Monday, panel member Mark GiaQuinta, of Fort Wayne, said the letters he has seen tell him that Gary residents want to see "profound change" before the city is granted any relief from the tax caps.

"I frankly have read all I want to read about a Hummer," GiaQuinta said. "But I do think, to some degree, symbolism plays a role here."

Clay said Tuesday he felt the board was dismissing the Hummer as "a petty issue. They don't want to hear about it, and I don't blame them."

The mayor's wheels have been a hot-button topic among some residents for years since Clay rode into office in his own Hummer H3. He is reported as saying that version ran the city about \$26,000.

Though he expressed frustration in doing so, Clay defended his vehicle choice Tuesday, saying, "I put my own gas in this Hummer. It's one of the cheapest SUVs. So what's the problem?"

"There's a bigger issue than the Hummer I'm driving," he said. "We've got major, major financial issues over here in Gary."

In their plea to the appeals board, Gary officials have asked for four years to cope with new tax caps, which are projected to siphon \$30.3 million from the city's 2009 budget.

"I don't want to continue to make a mountain out of a molehill," Clay said, noting that he voluntarily took a 20 percent pay cut in the midst of the city's fiscal meltdown.

Not only is his vehicle fuel efficient and requires little upkeep, Clay said, but it also saves Gary residents cash.

"We're saving taxpayers money by riding in a Hummer," he said. "I could've bought a \$50,000 Expedition."

## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** Norma Griffard [jngriff53@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 09, 2009 9:39 AM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Rudy Clay needs to be given a psychiatric test!

<http://www.post-trib.com/news/lake/1367279.ginaugural.article>

Please open the link and read it. I swear the state of Indiana should look into this egotistical fool. He is not qualified to be mayor.

Not only are the fire engines falling apart, but 3 out of 4 ambulances are in the shop and they "don't" have the money to get them out.

Also, as mentioned before, a police officer from Gary wrote a note in the comment section where at the time Rudy became mayor, six of the unmarked squad cars went to his friends. Supposedly the six body guards. Why does this mayor even have body guards?

I beg the state to send the FEDS in and boot this guy out. He is an insult to everyone. His ego is inflated, and to take pix's along to the mayoral conference showing 2,000 vancant buildings saying, "I'm going to bring some money back." This is so damn embarrassing for Indiana.

Please have an open investigation on all divisions within his governmental office. He has total disregard for his city. Money has always been missing. His foes have gone to jail for stealing money meant to provide housing for the poor.

We in Lake County ask you to send in the FEDS for a thorough investigation. Trust me when I tell you this guy is siphoning money and mismanaging every thing in that blighted city.

I am emailing the Governor all these ridiculous articles where he can see what a flux this guy is...he's no better than Blagovitch in Illinois. He needs his head examined, as well as all the patronage and books opened to the public.

Please don't send me an automatic reply, tell me my email counts. Don't bail that city out. He'll just pocket it. They have the equipment to demolish those buildings. Instead, they sit around in city hall all day. He lies, he's corrupt, and Gary needs to be de-annexed from the Miller Beach area, and put soley under state receivership. Let the state take it over. There is nothing to govern there. Money wasted.

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## Clay vows to pay own way to Obama inaugural

<http://www.post-trib.com/news/lake/1367279,ginaugural.article>

January 8, 2009

by **Jon Seidel**

**Post-Tribune staff writer**

**GARY** -- Elected leaders who plan to attend the inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama, including Gary Mayor Rudy Clay, said they won't be doing so on the backs of local taxpayers.

Clay, Gary City Council member Kimberly Robinson and state Sen. Earline Rogers, D-Gary, confirmed their plans Wednesday to travel to Washington, D.C., for the ceremony.

"The taxpayers are not going to spend one penny for me to go to this inaugural," Clay said.

The mayor said he plans to travel to Washington a few days early so he can attend the winter meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. It's an expense he says he will fund privately, as well.

"The taxpayers are not going to pay any money for my going to the United States mayors' conference," Clay said.

When he arrives at the conference, Clay said he will be carrying photographs of 2,000 abandoned Gary homes to deliver to U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh while asking for demolition money.

There is also talk that Obama himself might attend the conference to speak to the nation's mayors about the stimulus package he will pursue upon taking office.

"I'm going there to bring money back to Gary, Indiana," Clay said.

At the same time, the mayor said he will don a tuxedo to celebrate the inauguration of the new president.

"I am going to try to dance with Michelle," Clay said, referring to future First Lady Michelle Obama.

Rogers, a member of Obama's state leadership committee during the presidential campaign, said she will use her own campaign funds to attend an event that will close an important political chapter in her career.

"I started with Obama when he made his announcement in Springfield (Ill.) two years ago," Rogers said.

Contact Jon Seidel at 881-3148 or [jseidel@post-trib.com](mailto:jseidel@post-trib.com). Comment on this story at [www.post-trib.com](http://www.post-trib.com).

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## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** Beach46403@aol.com  
**Sent:** Friday, January 09, 2009 11:55 AM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Quit calling it a State bailout!

If you guys downstate want to give them some of the State's money, go ahead! But don't give them any of our money! The only people that should be allowed to vote on the City being able to increase our tax rates, are those whose money it is-- the taxpayers. In fact the vote on such a "bailout" should be restricted to taxpayers. If you don't get a tax bill, no vote!

They are just not ready to stop stealing quite yet. They really have no idea how to start cutting their budget. They just have no idea how to operate in that mode. It is as far opposite from the way they've been taught to think as possible. They are obviously unwilling to begin cutting their budgets. Gary's budget has been loaded with excess for decades. As long as nearly every person employed by the City has been there. These cuts need to be forced upon them or they will just never happen, at least not in any meaningful way, and not in the proper order.

So BEFORE the State decides to give these clowns any more of OUR money, it is incumbent upon the State to do a full audit. Not afterwards. Otherwise, it would seem to me that they may be putting themselves at risk of being complicit in the massive fraud that will surely be uncovered before much longer. The fraud which has been perpetrated on Gary taxpayers for years, through misappropriation, misapplication, misuse, and incompetent and neglectful management (mismanagement) of the taxpayer's money.

If the State, through the DUAB is unwilling to get fully involved to adequately protect the Gary taxpayers, that's fine. Just don't then become partially involved by allowing the City to get there dirty little hands on one cent more of our money.

The DUAB cannot take the easy road here. They are in the perfect position to solve the "Gary problem" once and for all. It would be a terrible shame if they did not take full advantage of this unique opportunity. And it would be a travesty if the Gary taxpayers were deprived of the benefits they would realize if this opportunity were properly acted upon. Salvation for our city can be at hand, as long as the State doesn't opt to take the easy route. They cannot become a party to the City of Gary skirting the law which was established to protect taxpayers from the very abuses which Gary taxpayers have been and will continue to be victims of. So before they enter into any arrangement by which they could be perceived to be complicit or culpable in the perpetuation of the massive fraud that; has existed, exists today, and will continue to exist in Gary, this "crime of the century in the City of the Century", they need to ensure that they have done their due diligence. Doing an audit after they've enabled the City to take more of our money is not good enough. They need to do the full examination first. This exam will likely determine that the patient is terminally ill, and should therefore not continue to receive any extraordinary measures of life support--financial life support in the City's case.

Any audit must be far more intensive than simply some CPAs going over paperwork in an office down in Indy. The audit needs to also be inclusive of employee performance and department performance--most likely nonperformance in Gary's case. In simple terms, we need to know exactly what we've been getting and what we're not getting for all of the billions that go through the individuals' hands that control the City's purse strings. There are many ways which our tax dollars can be taken from us without us receiving the actual benefit for which they were designated. They can be stolen through frauds. They can simply be burned up by a bloated, nonproductive system. There are any number of ways which these funds are diverted before they reach their intended use. An incredibly small portion of the overall money that makes its way through the city provides any real benefit to the taxpayers and citizens.

Simply put, we are not getting near our money's worth. It is the job--the responsibility--of the State's Distressed Unit Appeals Board to see that we do. Please do this job for us fully, properly, intensively, and extensively.

I am a little discouraged to read today that after a DLGF audit, that they only found some questionable expenses that amount to a little over \$30,000.00. I am not a CPA, but I am sure that if I were left alone with the City's books, I could find evidence of misappropriations of millions with very little effort in very little time.

I think that what the State really needs to do is something our friends at the IRS call an "Economic Reality Audit"--except in reverse! First let me explain briefly what an Economic Reality Audit (ERA) is; when individuals that report low levels of income, yet live well beyond their means, are suspected underreporting their income, sometimes the IRS sees fit to conduct an ERA. For example; if someone has Ferraris, Cigarette boats, a million-dollar house, and travels constantly, yet

only reports \$30,000.00 per year, they would probably be a good candidate for an ERA. The IRS might ask, "How did you get all of these goodies if you aren't making any money?"

But in the case of the City of Gary, where we know for a fact that they have been receiving enormous levels of income, we need for the State to conduct this "Reverse Economic Reality Audit". They need to come and do a physical audit of the condition of the city. They need to determine why the taxpayers' funds which all have very specific earmarks, have apparently been diverted. In short, why has our city fallen apart? Why has it been let go to the point of collapse? Why should we continue to have to live like this? Why do the citizens and taxpayers suffer while the ones in charge of providing these deserved services to us continue to live high on the hog? The DUAB should ask, "Why doesn't the city have any "goodies" when they have been receiving more than enough money to purchase them?" Why don't they have anything!

We want answers! We demand answers! And until we get them, don't even consider giving them more of our money!

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