

Russo, Stephanie

From: Sconiers [gigeronimo@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 2:27 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: City of Gary downsizing

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

Email: srusso@sba.in.gov

Re City of Gary

Close the city jail and let the county government take it over as the state suggest shutter the parks department in winter months sell Gleason park to Indiana University utilize the Indiana codes (workfare) and work release to keep the parks up as other communities do outside of Lake county turn over Miller beach to the national lake shore and let them run the beach and the park. Close all swimming pools in the city except Tolleston and Borman Square and allow the children to ride the bus for free to the swimming pools in summer months Shutter all the high schools but Wirt, West side and Lew Wallace. Look into combining community centers and Libraries into one building eliminating waste and cut back on the hours of operation. Sell the Baseball Stadium, Genesis Convention Center conditionally to the Gary School System as long as it can be used by the general public after the school system is done with it.

The city also needs to close it's health department and let the county government run a satellite office in the building.

The people who harp about losing control over these assets are only worried about their jobs and are spreading propaganda of the worst kind and want the tax payer to be a slave to their cushy life style.

Silas G Sconiers
1336 Washington Street Apartment 102
Gary , Indiana 46407.

219-880-1811

Russo, Stephanie

From: AYoung7550@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2009 8:28 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: They forgot to mention this in their presentation!

Feds seek more records from Sanitary District

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January 10, 2009
By Jon Seidel

Post-Tribune staff writer

GARY -- Federal agents told the Gary Sanitary District to hand over several documents for grand jury inspection this week, less than three months after they raided its offices seeking evidence of "environmental crimes."

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Investigators are casting a wide net at the district, according to a copy of the subpoena obtained by the Post-Tribune. Among the documents to be produced are financial, personnel and water treatment records dating back as far as 2000.

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Investigators also want records explaining how sludge was maintained by the district, any liquid discharges it made into bodies of water such as the Grand Calumet River, and any violations of regulations or law.

Finally, they are seeking employee records dating back to 2004, including training, certification and disciplinary records.

A stamp on the subpoena indicates it was received at the district's offices Monday.

United Water is the contract operator handling day-to-day management of the district. Rich Henning, United Water's spokesman, said he wasn't aware of any subpoenas received by his company.

"We're still fully cooperating," Henning said of the investigation.

The federal review of the Gary Sanitary District was first reported by the Post-Tribune in June 2007, when attorneys for the district and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management agreed to a joint discovery order.

Several months later, Clay refused a request from the U.S. Attorney's office that he step down as special administrator.

Though the inquiry appears to have begun as a civil matter, the stakes went up when federal criminal investigators raided the district's offices in October. They shut down all but the most basic operations for days.

The Gary Sanitary District is among the taxing units now making a joint appeal for relief to a state Distressed Unit Appeals Board.

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Russo, Stephanie

From: craig kloss [craigkloss@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2009 5:04 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Cc: craigkloss@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Gary, IN Property Tax Appeal

Dear Ms. Russo,

Regarding the, Jan. 5 2009 tax relief appeal hearing for Gary, IN, I ask for NO higher TAX rates for the tax payers of the city of Gary.

With respect, I would like you to consider the items that follow:

- * The property tax cap is already being manipulated. By Gary issuing bonds, the taxpayers must pay the cap plus service the debt on bonds. In addition, the debt for Gary School Corp. is added to property taxes above and beyond the tax cap.
- * One of the main causes of the city of Gary's tax plight is the erroneous assessment of the U.S. Steel property. This assessment, conducted by the state of Indiana, undervalued the property at 100 million dollars. The property in question is a seven mile long by one mile deep swath of prime lake front property. This property holds one of the world's largest and most profitable steel manufacturing facilities in the world. Assessment experts have pegged this property to be not 100 million dollars but upwards of 1 billion dollars.
- * Private organizations, to survive, learn to cut fat, retain necessities and look for outside ways to bring revenue to their operations. Government entities, like the city of Gary, must do the same. By saddling small businesses and other taxpayers with an inefficient government's debt, the city is strangling it's occupants in order to avoid taking appropriate budget cutting measures.

I Thank you for your time and in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Kloss
Resident of Gary, IN

Russo, Stephanie

From: nglenn [nglenn@netnitco.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2009 12:46 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Fw: a mayor indicted

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

Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2009 9:08 AM
Subject: a mayor indicted

Here's another one!!! I hope Rudy is being careful. NOT!

Baltimore,Md.

Mayor indicted amid probe of graft

Mayor Sheila Dixon was indicted Friday on charges that she accepted illegal gifts during her time as Mayor and City Council president, including travel, fur coats and gift cards that she allegedly used for a holiday shopping spree. She was also charged with theft under \$500, fraudulent misappropriation by fiduciary and misconduct in office. The State Prosecutor's Office has been investigating corruption for three years.

Russo, Stephanie

From: nglenn [nglenn@netnitco.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2009 12:48 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Fw: Quit calling it a State bailout!

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

From: Beach46403@aol.com
To: nglenn@netnitco.net
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 4:42 PM
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 their 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!

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

Russo, Stephanie

From: nglenn [nglenn@netnitco.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2009 3:19 AM
To: Congressman Pete Visclosky; Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Isn't it clear? (not the water)

Importance: High

Feds seek more records from Sanitary District

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January 10, 2009
By Jon Seidel

Post-Tribune staff writer

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Russo, Stephanie

From: andrea basarich [abasarich@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2009 7:25 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Fw: RUDYTRYIT

--- On Sun, 1/11/09, **BIRDLADYMI2@aol.com** <**BIRDLADYMI2@aol.com**> wrote:

From: BIRDLADYMI2@aol.com <BIRDLADYMI2@aol.com>

Subject: RUDYTRYIT

To: bikehard@gmail.com, abasarich@sbcglobal.net, nglenn@netnitco.net, hoblitzel@att.net, DRWHO1@iowatelecom.net, spruth1@yahoo.com, MDKrusas@aol.com, Kamakazie11@sbcglobal.net, wellsam1@yahoo.com, RACN523@aol.com

Date: Sunday, January 11, 2009, 12:40 AM

Rudy: Your quote "What do you want me to do"??? There are hundreds and thousands of people who have vehicles that barely run. What was wrong with the other Hummer? Why can't you use one of the Crown Victoria's and give our policemen DECENT VEHICLES with heat for winter and A/C for summer? These are men and women who put their lives on the line every single time they go out on their job with "piddly pay"! Go ahead, laugh, smile but remember...what goes around...and I don't know how many citizens of Gary would approve of another quote...The City of Gary bought a 2009 Hummer for the "Mayor"!!! Humph! You sure know how to get what you want but what about the citizens of Gary??????????

Carole and Company (lots of company)!!!!

BirdLady

Russo, Stephanie


From: andrea basarich [abasarich@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2009 7:26 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Fw: ARROGANT

--- On Sun, 1/11/09, nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net> wrote:

From: nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net>
Subject: Fw: ARROGANT
To: Undisclosed-Recipient@yahoocom
Date: Sunday, January 11, 2009, 12:39 AM

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

From: BIRDLADYMI2@aol.com
To: alexis.banks@sbcglobal.net ; nglenn@netnitco.net ; MDKrusas@aol.com ; RACN523@aol.com ; sidecar1969@verizon.net ; LMartinwat@aol.com ; SOPHIEbyemail@yahoo.com ; hoskins_g@msn.com
Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2009 12:20 AM
Subject: ARROGANT

He is an apathetic "jerk" especially with the financial situation; people losing homes, jobs, etc. And WHY another hummer? He makes all of us sick! Why can't he take a bus along with his body guards. Car dealerships are literally "giving" away vehicles...very low cost. So now we have to support his addiction to the big and flashy Hummers while, again, we are struggling. 

BirdLady

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

Russo, Stephanie

From: andrea basarich [abasarich@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2009 7:31 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Fw: Payin' his own way....buyin' his own gas?

--- On Sun, 1/11/09, nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net> wrote:

From: nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net>
Subject: Fw: Payin' his own way....buyin' his own gas?
To: Undisclosed-Recipient@yahoo.com
Date: Sunday, January 11, 2009, 12:08 AM

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

From: Jack Lund
To: nglenn
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 9:30 AM
Subject: Payin' his own way....buyin' his own gas?

Clay says that he pays for his own gas for the Hummer, but I saw it the other day, and it had a *POLICE license plate on it*.

Can anyone check to see whether that plate is listed on the log where they pump their 'free' city gasoline?

(Smart money says it is!)

At 11:16 PM 1/8/2009, you wrote:

exactly

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

From: Kathy Long
To: nora glenn
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2009 8:50 AM
Subject: Payin' his own way....

Is it me, or is anyone else just a little concerned that the Mayor and some of the city council folks want some kind of kudos for paying their own way to the Obama Inaugural?

These people should be embarrassed that they would even CONSIDER having taxpayers foot the bill...

"I'm payin' my own way to the inaugural...."

You're SUPPOSED to pay your own way !!!!

and don't drive that huge gas guzzling piece of crap Hummer you've indulged in----

Russo, Stephanie

From: andrea basarich [abasarich@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2009 5:20 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Fw: Quit calling it a State bailout!

--- On Sun, 1/11/09, nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net> wrote:

From: nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net>
Subject: Fw: Quit calling it a State bailout!
To: Undisclosed-Recipient@yahoo.com
Date: Sunday, January 11, 2009, 7:26 PM

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

From: Nicole
To: Nora Glenn Miller Lady
Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2009 5:06 AM
Subject: Quit calling it a State bailout!

Hello,

Who decides to provide bailout money to the Gary community? Would the *House Financial Institution Committee* make this decision? Are we depending upon Governor Daniels? I would like to forward this email to each official responsible for the decisions made pertaining to the bailout.

Thank you,

Nicole

--- On Sun, 1/11/09, nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net> wrote:

From: nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net>
Subject: Fw: Quit calling it a State bailout!
To: Undisclosed-Recipient@yahoo.com
Date: Sunday, January 11, 2009, 12:12 AM

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

From: Beach46403@aol.com
To: srusso@sba.in.gov
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 10:55 AM
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!

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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.

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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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Russo, Stephanie

From: John Vinzant [john.vinzant@vinzantsoftware.com]
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 4:08 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: RE: Follow-up Question to City of Gary DUAB Hearing

Thank you Stephanie.

How kind of you to ask for my ideas. I'm having a hard time getting the ear of anyone in Gary City Gov, it's a treat to be able to pontificate.

If you were at the hearing on Monday, you are familiar with the end result of Gary's budget cutting/implosion – very few services will be available and public safety will be substantially cut. I don't think that's a good situation. As I see it, the problem with Gary's approach, and with most everyone else's, is a fixation on Public Safety spending. Yes, it is vitally important. However, everyone seems to overlook the fact that even if all funds were spent on public safety services, there wouldn't be enough money to pay for what we have now. And, what we have now isn't really delivering the kind of bucolic safety that everyone wants – we are the 2nd most dangerous city in the country, just behind New Orleans.

It should be remembered that in spite of the crying about hummers and padded payrolls, the fundamental issue in Gary is the lack of value within its borders. Its valuation is just too low to render enough cash to support a functioning civil government (when a fair tax rate is applied). If post implosion Gary is left as an ungoverned/ungovernable wreck it is not realistic to expect that property values will recover any time soon. Gary will be stuck in a third world cycle of poverty and disinvestment. (Similar to what we have now, only without the hope of improvement. Present conditions are the result of poor management, not an unyielding economic reality.)

So instead of trying to build a final budget that attempts to provide an inadequate level of public safety funding, my suggestion is that the City should consider eliminating all public safety funding from its budgets and turn its police and fire assets & responsibilities over to Lake County. Stephanie I know this counterintuitive, but the City isn't going to have the funds to provide the service. The only entity with a sufficiently large assessed valuation to provide the service is the County.

Of course Lake County will not want to have anything to do with policing Gary. But I don't see how they can get out of it once the fingers begin pointing at it. I recall the comment made on Monday that by off-loading service responsibilities onto the County, Gary could play an important role in forcing it to finally adopt an income tax. Imagine that – Gary could be Governor Daniels' good buddy in this fight. Go figure. Realistically, there will have to be some horse trading before the county can step in and police Gary. In my simple mind, aside from the turnover of assets, Gary would probably have to send some money. Why shouldn't it pay something for services? It could also sweeten the deal by assigning to the County any income tax revenues apportioned to it, up to the amount of the County's costs for policing. I'm certain that how they determine and agree upon that cost will be an ongoing fistfight. But, that's government.

Anyway, the way for people in Gary to have a relatively safe and stable community post-implosion is to take public safety spending off the board. This, in my view, is a better avenue to follow since it offers the opportunity for the City to grow out of penury. Safety and stability are necessary for any positive future in Gary. And of course, which of our surrounding communities wants a failed Gary on its borders. Fear, Uncertainty and Dread (FUD) are tremendous motivators.

Of course, the list of things turned over to the County is longer, but removal of public safety from the budget is the key. Also to be jettisoned would be the City Court, City Health Department, City Park System, Bus System (although Federally funded, its management could only be better if run from Crown Point), Gary Housing Authority (ditto), and probably some other functions that don't pop to mind just now. Oh, the Airport should go to the State for Management.

Also get rid of any department containing words that end with 'velopment' and any jobs containing the words 'assistant', 'deputy' or 'administrator'.

The goal here is to reduce payroll to almost nothing. There are few processes in the City that couldn't/shouldn't be contracted out, just as trash collection has already been. Plowing, pothole patching ... the list goes on. There is one job that would be very important: Director of Value. This would be for a person whose sole purpose would be to increase the value of property in Gary, so as to increase the levy, lower the tax rate (or invest in city services as needed). If done

properly the City might one day be able to buy back its public safety functions (but why? Who needs that kind of trouble?).

That's the first idea.

The second plan would be to simply dissolve the City and fold everything into Lake County. There is an attraction to this, we desparately need a Unigov-like consolidation up here and folding in Gary with the County would be a good first step. But my bias would be to have them try option 1 first.

I have been in contact with Gary City Controller Celita Green. Celita and I have known each other for quite a while, having served on a non-profit board together for several years. I haven't been able to engage her in any conversation regarding rethinking the desired outcome of the 'implosion'. The only comment I received from her was that Mayor Clay would have to approve of any contact she has with outsiders regarding the matter. Not a promising start.

You know, on Monday afternoon I looked at Mayor Clay and Celita and in their faces I thought I saw the dawning realization that the end of business as usual in Gary was at hand. After arriving at my conclusion that removal of public safety funding was the only way to allow for adequate public safety I thought that they would be open to the inclusion of new ideas and embrace an offer of help. As the week has progressed though the signs from City Hall are not good. Aside from the purchase of a new hummer and his defense of it (just nutty), the Mayor has made a point of letting all city employees know that on Monday things went great and that money will soon be flowing to Gary again. Stephanie, that's not the way I saw it. I'm sure your in-box is crammed with angry attacks on Mayor Clay but given the magnitude of the problem and horrendous down side for us, it just seems more prudent to grab an oar and try to help.

About me: I have lived in Gary for 17 years. I do have a City responsibility; I am President of the Redevelopment Authority for the City of Gary. It's not a paid job, there is no stipend. We exist to issue bonds against future lease income on a few City properties. There are two great things about these bonds. First, they do not count against the City's debt ceiling. Second, they are only secured by casino funds so if the boats sail the city is not on the hook. I am the Republican appointment to the Authority. We last met in 2006 to authorize some bonding to refinance improvements to a City owned office building. My appointment has expired, but since the Mayor has not made another appointment I'm told I continue in office until replaced or reappointed.

If there is anything I or anyone else can do to induce Gary to adopt a plan of reorganization that might avoid leaving a cinder in its wake, please let me know.

John Vinzant
8937 Lake Shore Drive
Gary, IN 46403

From: Russo, Stephanie [mailto:srusso@sba.in.gov]
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 10:45 AM
To: John Vinzant
Subject: RE: Follow-up Question to City of Gary DUAB Hearing

Mr. Vinzant,

The DUAB are only authorized to give relief from the caps by doing one of the following:

- Raising the circuit breaker rates
- Reducing the circuit breaker credits
- Exempting debt from the circuit breakers

I hope that answers your questions. You mentioned "alternative plans" below in your email. We welcome your ideas and would be interested to hear, if you are so included. If you need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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

From: John Vinzant [mailto:john.vinzant@vinzantsoftware.com]
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 10:53 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: RE: Follow-up Question to City of Gary DUAB Hearing

Great! I appreciate your time.

John Vinzant

From: Russo, Stephanie [mailto:srusso@sba.in.gov]
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 9:36 AM
To: John Vinzant
Subject: RE: Follow-up Question to City of Gary DUAB Hearing

Mr. Vinzant,

I am in receipt of your email and questions. I will respond when I have an answer for you. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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

From: John Vinzant [mailto: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

Russo, Stephanie

From: Charles Hensel [henselgary@att.net]
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2009 6:40 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Gary Indiana Situation

Sir/Madam

I am totally against any further increase in taxation in Gary. We citizens are already assessed 3/4 of one percent more than the typical 1 percent assessed in other jurisdictions.

Proper leadership and cost accounting might make the difference. Both seem lacking.

ITEMS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Our City Court costs the city 2.2 million each year.
2. Our City clerk has some 42 employees, perhaps necessary in the age of foolscap and quill pen but are 42 workers necessary in computer driven 2009?
3. The city has about 1000 employees, plus 300 police and fire, yet some 50 of employees were not so vital to the city's business that they came to visit your offices last Monday.
4. Linda Key, a consultant purportedly hired at 40K, spent hours at city hall enabling the employees in their writing of letters to your office in support of tax

increases.

5. We have a fleet of some 200 vehicles, yet our mayor spends our city's money on a new, city owned Hummer for his personal use.

6. The Mayor does not make sure that his street department fills our thousands of pot holes.

7. A recent audit reported in the *Post-Tribune* showed a lack of internal controls.

Perhaps the best thing that could happen to the city would be a full forensic audit. Address our problems before even considering additional funds.

Yours,

(The Rev) Charles H Hensel
Retired Episcopal Priest
8414 Oak Ave
Gary, IN 46403
219 938 3027

Russo, Stephanie

From: Beach46403@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2009 1:27 AM
To: nglenn@netnitco.net
Subject: Read the writing on the wall.

To City Hall and others:

Has your budget been cut to the bone? **NO!** Of course not!

But get used to that word, you'll be hearing it a lot. When do you think will be a good time to start cutting? After the State tells you no? Every week that passes without making the necessary payroll cuts, will mean 2 weeks at the end of the year that you won't have money left in the payroll account to pay employees.

Have you had a chance to read the pitiful letters written by the City of Gary employees that submitted pleas for mercy to the DUAB? Firstly, I doubt that they were written of these employees' own volition. Surely there was some type of order from the administration for them to do so. Secondly, they really don't say anything. (Well besides shameless begging) And many of these employees submitted several letters, most of them identical. Besides these employees and some of their relatives, I don't think that there were more than a couple of letters that actually supported the City's position. There was one letter from someone in Miller that supported it, but he thinks it is a State bailout. Another woman signed on to his position 1000%, so she must also think that it is a State bailout, only more so. But besides the City employees and their relatives and the two partially informed Millerites, it was unanimous. Don't give them a dime!

What seems to be the City's plan is this; To have no plan at all. To instead resort to religiously charged pleas for mercy to the DUAB and only to offer rhetoric that suggests if these pleas for mercy are not met, that those that refuse the City are evil. Are heartless. Are haters, and that the blood will be on their hands.

The City Clerk, Suzette Raggs, an elected official, had no pertinent testimony to offer the DUAB. All she could do was to offer a general plea for mercy. And for some reason, she needed her attorney to accompany her while she made this plea.

I have always been wary of people that seem to feel the need of constantly invoking the name of God. More often than not, it generally seems to be used by individuals that are not godly at all--are not necessarily good, but instead are using His name to mask their own weaknesses or evil.

After analyzing the City's entire petition, it appears that the only "good" people that anyone should be concerned with are the employees of the City. So what does that make the rest of us? I am sure that anyone looking at this situation from on high, can see exactly what side everyone is on--who is exactly what.

Governor Daniels sees it quite clearly. That's high enough for me!

Does everyone realize that by this time next year, we could be living in a normal city. Now don't get offended by that. We all love the city, warts and all, but it is not normal, at least not by American standards. And there is no reason that anyone should fear that we will lose all of the good things we

love through this "normalizing" process. We will shed the bad things, but most importantly, we can and will gain many good things--good things that everyone deserves.

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Russo, Stephanie

From: nglenn [nglenn@netnitco.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2009 9:49 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Fw: This morning on AOL News

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

From: Mtc1956@aol.com
To: nglenn@netnitco.net
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2009 8:34 AM
Subject: This morning on AOL News

Mayor defends city buying himself a gas guzzling Hummer

Geoff Williams

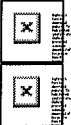
Jan 9th 2009 at 5:00PM
Text SizeAAA

Filed under: [Budgets](#), [Extracurriculars](#), [Recession](#)

Some politicians seem to have such a dense understanding of what's going on around them, it's a wonder they were elected. Exhibit A: the mayor of Gary, Indiana, who is driving a government-purchased, gas-guzzling Hummer, despite the fact that his city is operating with a \$36 million deficit.

The Future of Cars?

Darron Cummings, AP
500 photos



Gary, Ind., Mayor Rudy Clay bought a Hummer with government funds while his city is experiencing a \$36 million deficit. (Note: Please disable your pop-up blocker)

A Mayor's Choice

The Myers Motors NmG all electric car is test driven on an indoor test drive track during the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Michigan January 12, 2009. REUTERS/Mark Blinch (UNITED STATES)

Reuters

The Myers Motors NmG all electric car is test driven on an indoor test drive track during the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Michigan January 12, 2009. REUTERS/Mark Blinch (UNITED STATES)

Reuters

Designed in California, USA, the 2010 Fisker Karma is the first luxury plug-in hybrid car. (PRNewsFoto/Fisker Automotive, Inc.)

PR NEWSWIRE

Charging connecting plug for the Chinese BYD e6 electric car is introduced during a press preview at the North American International Auto Show January 12, 2009 in Detroit, Michigan. AFP PHOTO/Stan HONDA (Photo credit should read STAN HONDA/AFP/Getty Images)

AFP/Getty Images

Front area of the Chinese BYD e6 electric car is introduced during a press preview at the North American International Auto Show January 12, 2009 in Detroit, Michigan. AFP PHOTO/Stan HONDA (Photo credit should read STAN HONDA/AFP/Getty Images)

AFP/Getty Images

Journalists view the Chinese BYD e6 electric car introduced during a press preview at the North American International Auto Show January 12, 2009 in Detroit, Michigan. AFP PHOTO/Stan HONDA (Photo credit should read STAN HONDA/AFP/Getty Images)

AFP/Getty Images

The Chinese BYD e6 electric car is introduced during a press preview at the North American International Auto Show January 12, 2009 in Detroit, Michigan. AFP PHOTO/Stan HONDA (Photo credit should read STAN HONDA/AFP/Getty Images)

AFP/Getty Images

DETROIT - JANUARY 12: Rick Wagoner, Chairman and CEO, General Motors, talks about a lithium-ion battery that GM will manufacture for the Volt electric car during the second press preview for the Detroit International Auto Show at the Cobo Center January 12, 2009 in Detroit, Michigan. The 2009 North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) opens to the public January 17. Automakers have cut back on their displays to save money and are focusing more on the cars they plan to produce in response to the financial weakening of the industry. (Photo by Bryan Mitchell/Getty Images) *** Local Caption *** Rick Wagoner

Getty Images

DETROIT - JANUARY 12: Rick Wagoner, Chairman and CEO, General Motors, introduces a lithium-ion battery (L) that GM will manufacture for the Volt electric car during the second press preview for the Detroit International Auto Show at the Cobo Center January 12, 2009 in Detroit, Michigan. The 2009 North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) opens to the public January 17. Automakers have cut back on their displays to save money and are focusing more on the cars they plan to produce in response to the financial weakening of the industry. (Photo by Bryan Mitchell/Getty Images) *** Local Caption *** Rick Wagoner

Getty Images

Rick Wagoner (R), General Motors Chairman and CEO shakes hands with Peter Kim (L), President LG Chem during a press preview at the North American International Auto Show January 12, 2009 in Detroit, Michigan. LG Chem will help manufacture the lithium-ion battery for the GM Volt electric car. AFP PHOTO/Stan HONDA (Photo credit should read STAN HONDA/AFP/Getty Images)

AFP/Getty Images

Recently, Rudy Clay asked for a cap on property taxes for his city, but when Ryan Kitchell, chairman of the state panel that decides these sorts of things, learned about the purchase, he was a wee bit upset. Ever since, Clay's been doing the interview circuit, including a stint on Fox News, being grilled about his decision to buy such an expensive and unpopular -- these days -- vehicle.

If the economy wasn't in such dire shape, it would almost be funny how tone deaf some politicians can be about the economy.

Oh, never mind. It is kind of funny.

Clay defended himself mightily when he spoke in front of the state's Distressed Unit Appeals Board: "What do you want me to do, walk around here? I've got to have a car."

Sure, but a 2009 Hummer H3 for \$29,970? Clay proudly noted that he received a \$5,000 discount. Otherwise it would have cost more. And until he was criticized for the purchase, the cash-strapped berg of Gary, Indiana was picking up the gas tab. Now, apparently, the mayor is paying for his gas.

And in Clay's mind, he is a cost-conscious mayor. After all, as he told the state board: "We're saving taxpayers money by riding in a Hummer. I could've bought a \$50,000 Expedition."

Hmm. Perhaps Gary could use another mayor? Maybe one who already drives a Prius...

Geoff Williams is a freelance journalist and the author of C.C. Pyle's Amazing Foot Race: The True Story of the 1928 Coast-to-Coast Run Across America (Rodale).

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Russo, Stephanie

From: andrea basarich [abasarich@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2009 12:39 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Fw: One of Clay's biggest lies

--- On Wed, 1/14/09, Beach46403@aol.com <Beach46403@aol.com> wrote:

From: Beach46403@aol.com <Beach46403@aol.com>

Subject: One of Clay's biggest lies

To: [nglenn@netnitco.net](mailto:neglenn@netnitco.net)

Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2009, 10:11 AM

"I cut my budget by over a million a month since I became mayor."

Clay's reign of dementia began in April of 2006. We are now in January of 2009. He has been mayor around 33 months. He says he cut 34 million. So actually, according to his math, he cut a little more than a million dollars a month. So what's the problem? The problem is that the budget for 2009 has only been reduced a couple of million over the highest city budget since 1996. (Likely in the City's entire history, but I don't have access to records any further back. Plus I don't want to have to get into adjusting dollars for inflation.)

The highest budget in memory was under Rudy Clay. In 2007, it was just a teensy-weensy bit south of 70 million. His administration's proposed budget for 2009 is right at 64 million. So where is the 34 million he claims he cut out of the budget? Don't spend too much time looking for these cuts, because they just don't exist. The entire claim he makes over and over, is just one gigantic lie. If he actually cut the 34 million he says he did, we wouldn't have any problem at all. 70 million minus 34 million equals 36 million. We'd be right where we need to be with the tax caps fully implemented.

Now I can understand why he continues to tell this lie to Gary citizens every chance he gets. It's good politics! And I can understand that hearing himself say this probably makes him feel good about himself. He may believe this lie. But I can't believe that he told this lie to the members of the Distressed Unit Appeals Board. These guys live and breathe balance sheets. Does he think that they can't do this math?

The truth is; no mayor has spent more money, and no mayor has accomplished

less, than Rudy Clay.

Rudy may have inherited a mess from King, but the citizens have inherited a disaster from the Clay administration...already! Heaven only knows what we'll get if we have to suffer the completion of his term!

You are in way over your head--and you must know it! Don't you want to spend more time with your family?

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Russo, Stephanie

From: by way of Jack Lund <londonjack@sbcglobal.net> [Beach46403@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2009 12:53 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie; Russo, Stephanie
Subject: One of Clay's Biggest Lies: "I cut the budget \$1M a month since I became mayor"

"I cut my budget by over a million a month since I became mayor."

Clay's reign of dementia began in April of 2006. We are now in January of 2009. He has been mayor around 33 months. He says he cut 34 million. So actually, according to his math, he cut a little more than a million dollars a month. So what's the problem? The problem is that the budget for 2009 has only been reduced a couple of million over the highest city budget since 1996. (Likely in the City's entire history, but I don't have access to records any further back. Plus I don't want to have to get into adjusting dollars for inflation.)

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The truth is; no mayor has spent more money, and no mayor has accomplished less, than Rudy Clay.

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You are in way over your head--and you must know it! Don't you want to spend more time with your family?

Russo, Stephanie

From: andrea basarich [abasarich@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2009 1:48 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Fw: Interpretation of Clay's letter/press release of 1/14/2009

--- On Thu, 1/15/09, Beach46403@aol.com <Beach46403@aol.com> wrote:

From: Beach46403@aol.com <Beach46403@aol.com>
Subject: Interpretation of Clay's letter/press release of 1/14/2009
To: Beach46403@aol.com, nglenn@netnitco.net
Date: Thursday, January 15, 2009, 11:51 AM

In response to Mayor Rudolph Clay's press release of 1/14/2009, which appears in today's Hammond Times. It is available by a hyperlink within the story or by clicking here: < http://www.nwi.com/extras/pdfs/clay_statement.pdf >

My interpretation as read in the first person;

Please, please, let us continue to waste and steal and misappropriate the taxpayer's money for just a few more years. We promise, that in just 4 short years will we will have stuffed our pockets enough.

It's not fair! We haven't been able to get away with as much as I had expected to because of all of the investigators that have been sticking their noses where they don't belong. If we can just get a few more years to do our thing once these outsiders are gone, we'll be happy. You know the way things work up here, it's just not right, now that I finally got the job. I've wanted my entire adult life, that I am going to be forced to toe the line. It just ain't right! All the guys before me got to steal like crazy, why can't I?

These people in Gary don't care about how their tax money is spent, they just want to make sure that I can keep doing great things in Gary. They don't care if the city is in the toilet now, they just want to keep waiting for things to get better in the future. Like I keep telling them, "Gary's best days are ahead." Those suckers have waited this long, what's a few more years?

So please all you DUAB guys, give us permission to reach deep into the pockets of taxpayers (at least the ones I don't like anyway). I know we haven't really cut a gosh darn thing yet, but so what! It ain't your money, what do you care? If the rest of the businesses leave, big deal. We barely have any left anyway! We've got a plan for the vacancies they'll leave behind. We got our buddies and not-for-profit organizations lined up around the block waiting to come in. Once we make the transition from businesses to all not-for-profits, then go ahead and implement these stupid tax caps. It won't make any difference to us then. These businesses are a pain in the neck anyway; they are constantly complaining that we don't give any services. We know that, but most people are already used to that. It's only these pesky businesses and Miller people that won't keep their mouths shut. Good riddance! That's the messed up thing about these people that work for a living, they expect us to do some work for them in return. Forget that!

And please DUAB team, don't come up here and ask to look over our books, at least not both sets of them. We already sent you the set that we wanted you to go over. And we don't want you guys telling us how to do our job, we already know all of the places that we could make cuts, we just don't feel like it. So just stay down in Indy where you belong. We got it covered here in Gary.

And don't ask me why after I cut 37 million from my budget that peaked in 2007 at a little under 70 million, that it is still 65 million. That's just nitpicking. You see, that's a different kind of math. I don't know where you guys went to school, but I got my education on 25th Avenue. The way I look at it, it all adds up just fine. So don't believe the numbers, believe what we're telling you!

All you people just don't understand, this is Gary, Indiana. We do things different up here. We don't see why you won't just leave us alone and let us do things the way we want. Why don't you all just mind your own business and let us take care

of business up here? Just leave us alone with our 65-million dollar budget and we'll be just fine. Don't listen to all of those crab-ass taxpayers. If they want services in return for their taxes, let them move somewhere else--somewhere that city leaders really care about their constituents. We ain't got time for that kind of stuff here, we're too busy working on big deals that we can skim off the top of. It doesn't matter if these projects ever get finished. There's no money in finishing a project. We get our money off the top--up front. Finishing these projects don't matter to me. I just want to see some more get started. That's where the money's at!

This ain't about the taxpayers getting a fair shake. It's about us getting our way. We matter more than them. We haven't listened to the taxpayers in years and we're not about to start now. Maybe we'll consider it in four more years. But then again, maybe not! We're entitled to their money. What in the world makes them think they should get something in return? These people writing these letters and doing all the complaining are just troublemakers.

You DUAB guys seem like smart fellas, can't you see I don't care a bit about anyone but myself and my old pals. Can't you see the last thing I need is for you guys to come up here and tell me how to do my job. I've already got a whole bunch of people telling me what to do. They think I'm doing just fine. The last thing me and them want is you guys to start meddling in our deals. You're just going to mess everything up. Before you know it, people and businesses will be moving back to the city. That's the last thing we need! We already got too many of these Chicago people complaining about everything. I gotta' tell you, I'm sick of hearing it.

Those businesses and Miller people never liked me anyway. Why should I give a hoot about them? Once I get rid of the rest of the businesses and working people, I'll be home free. As long as "my people" don't have to pay any more taxes, they'll still love me. I'll be mayor forever! Hallelujah! Ya' see, I told you God was good!

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Russo, Stephanie

From: andrea basarich [abasarich@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, January 16, 2009 8:23 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Fw: Demolition Men

--- On Fri, 1/16/09, Beach46403@aol.com <Beach46403@aol.com> wrote:

From: Beach46403@aol.com <Beach46403@aol.com>

Subject: Demolition Men

To: nglenn@netnitco.net

Date: Friday, January 16, 2009, 8:07 AM

If we are looking for ways to cut the City's budget, one department we immediately find which is a perfect candidate for a place to start cutting, is the In-House Demolition Department. Now if there weren't half a dozen or so local demolition contractors chomping at the bit for the same exact kind of work that this department performs--that it performs every so often when they have the money to pay the landfill fees--we might be able to justify the city's need for an in-house demolition department. But that is not the case. Our city has plenty of local, Gary-based companies both very willing and quite able to assume the task. And they could surely do it a lot cheaper than the City does.

However, with having our own demolition department, one would not expect the need for the City to put so much demolition work out for bid. They have a full-blown department with their own equipment, their own payroll, their own department head, and their own budget. ***So if we have this department, why do we have to contract out for demolition services? Or better yet, if we contract out for demolition services, why do we have our own demolition department?***

The mystery is not all that deep. We find the answers simply by observing how this department, along with their companion department--the Department of Redevelopment (DOR)--operate. The demolition department really acts as an arm of the DOR. They really don't do much else other than act on orders of the DOR. The most noticeable costs associated with this department are the payroll costs. They have a full-time payroll, 52 weeks per year, but they most certainly are not doing demolition every day, or even every week! The last time the city ran out of money, they didn't work for months. But they never laid anyone off. They never reassigned the demo workers to other jobs. They just didn't do any demo work. But they did continue to draw their full pay. They just didn't do any work. Most didn't even come to work!

Personally, I don't see how the demolition department would ever get a day off! (But they do. They rarely do any work.) Rudy said he's carrying around pictures of 2000 abandoned structures in his pocket. He plans on giving these to Obama and Bayh at the inauguration. In the presentation to the DUAB the City said there are 4000 abandoned buildings. If the taxpayers are paying for this department to be there on a full-time basis, why are they only working part-time? Why is this department getting full-time pay for its very part-time work? There is demolition work in Gary needing to be done from now until the end of time!

But back to why we have our own demolition department AND still contract out a lot of the city-ordered demolition work in the city; They contract out the hard jobs. These guys really don't want to work too hard. They wreck a few small houses. They'll wreck some frame two-story units. (Just enough to give the impression they are doing something.) But they really aren't interested in cracking a sweat on any of the larger jobs. But there are some exceptions to this. If a building has a lot of steel in it, expect our in-house crew to be all over it. Why you ask? Fringe benefits! The demolition crews keep all of the money from the scrap they recover from demo jobs while on City time, while using City equipment, and while drawing a City paycheck. Why doesn't this money go to the City to help offset their budget? What possible reason could there be that the crews are allowed to keep this money? Well, I really shouldn't say the crews as much as the crew leaders. But nonetheless, when they get any scrap iron from any city job, the money NEVER gets back to the City. (This is not an inconsequential amount. Last year they surely collected over \$100,000.00 from the sale of scrap.) Maybe we should ask the big cheeses that oversee every move made by these crews; that would be Geraldine Tousant and Vanesse Dabney.

You would have to think that the deputy mayor and a department head would be quite concerned with the City getting beat out of all of this money, wouldn't you? Unless....hmmm....you might have something there.

There are just so many ways that the General Services, the Parks department, the Vehicle Maintenance, Streets and Sanitation, Plowing, and the Demolition departments could be consolidated that it barely is worth mentioning; however, doing so would mean the elimination of half-a-dozen fiefdoms with one stroke. Nobody wants to get rid of the fiefdoms, because these fiefdoms support the kingdom. Sometimes this kingdom is referred to as the City of Gary. Clay can't eliminate fiefdoms without weakening his personal kingdom. He thinks he is the king. Unfortunately, he is so weak that he can't stand on his own without the protection and support of all these sycophantic employees and departments. Keeping him mayor, which keeps his overblown ego inflated, costs Gary taxpayers dearly.

I'd start cutting here. But the only place Rudy can ever to think of to start cutting the budget is public safety. Do you think he is just saying that to scare us? I'd be embarrassed to make that threat. Making this threat, Rudy is implying that we have adequate public safety now. What do you think? When I can read the papers for a couple of weeks straight and not have to read about some twenty-something being shot by another twenty-something, or don't have to read about every other type of violent crime being reported 3 or 4 pages back in the paper, then maybe, but at the moment, the city really doesn't have a level of public safety that I'd be bragging about. Not at all!

Clay evidently can't see the forest through the trees. Wanna' bet the DUAB can!

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Russo, Stephanie

From: andrea basarich [abasarich@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, January 16, 2009 8:32 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Fw: Response to Beach46403's take on the city's situation

--- On Thu, 1/15/09, nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net> wrote:

From: nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net>
Subject: Fw: Response to Beach46403's take on the city's situation
To: Undisclosed-Recipient@yahoo.com
Date: Thursday, January 15, 2009, 8:24 PM

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

From: Deanne Manojlovic
To: Nora Glenn
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2009 10:41 AM
Subject: FW: Response to Beach46403's take on the city's situation

> **From:** nglenn@netnitco.net
> **To:** ;
> **Subject:** Fw: Response to Beach46403's take on the city's situation
> **Date:** Sun, 11 Jan 2009 18:42:06 -0600
>

> I, too, do not have the answers. I must comment though on the small things. Just because they are small does not mean they are insignificant. Saving \$50,000 here and \$40,000 there will finally add up. Not as easy, I agree, but not insignificant by any means. Again, adding up all the fat makes a difference. You can't possibly agree that it is fair for a homeowner with a \$400,000 home to pay \$25,000 per year in taxes!?! Can you? That's not in a gated community; that's not in a city with exemplary city services, that's not in a city "safe" city; that's not in a city with stellar schools. The property owners in Gary do NOT need higher taxes. Every property owner should have to pay something. \$100 a year, \$200 a year, something...before some of you get snide, let me say I by no means know everything, I'm just giving my thoughts/opinions/ideas for banter...my understanding is that most of Gary homeowners do not pay property taxes because of exemptions. That creates a HUGE problem. The majority riding on the backs of the minority. It's not a wonder people leave the city when they can. Neighboring cities have better schools, better city services, better parks, lower insurance rates because of less crime, lower property taxes. For example, in Chesterton you can own a \$400,000 and pay less than \$5500 in property taxes. Homeowners insurance is lower. Car insurance is lower. Where would you want to live?

Gary could have so much to offer. Instead it is being trodden by the greedy over and over. Another example I remember-something with the schools (superintendent or something?)-the person was put on paid leave or something for the remainder of their lengthy contract and the city hired another person (who they put on lengthy contract!) Did they not learn after the first one? How about making sure they worked out first? There they were, paying double for one job. My memory may not be serving me properly, but I'm not sure that person worked out either. It's all the little things that add up. How about those duplexes on County Line and Oak? Tax abatement? Why? Maybe it doesn't matter so much now that all of us are barely receiving city services

anyway. People complain about authority figures hiring people they know. I probably would too if I could, but I would only if they were qualified. It would be interesting to know how many jobs are duplicated in our city because of that. Joe Shmoe's brother is hired for a job, but because he is not qualified, an assistant is hired too. Double dipping again.

I don't know what the answers are, but I do know that our society in Gary and elsewhere is floundering because of greed and the disintegration of the family unit, however that family unit is identified (be it mother/father/kids, mother/kids, father/kids, grandparents/kids, mother/mother/kids, you get the picture). We MUST work to ensure that our children are given our highest priority. They must know that they WILL succeed. That we will do our best to provide them with the tools needed to succeed. That if we do not have those tools, we will find someone who does. We parents must expect and demand what is needed from our school systems for our children to succeed. Sorry, I'm off on a tangent, and I must go...dee

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: "Cohen, Ronald" <rcohen@iun.edu>

> To: "nglenn" <nglenn@netnitco.net>

> Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2009 10:33 AM

> Subject: Response to Beach46403's take on the city's situation

>

>

>>I certainly appreciate Beach46403's seemingly astute insights into Gary's
>>current plight. He/she seems to have carefully read the Post-Tribune in
>>recent days, for example the article on January 9 about the recent state
>>audit, which, however, found little to quibble about. But what about the
>>bulk the piece, which begins: "A new report questions whether the city of
>>Gary can continue to exist if a state appeals board chooses not to raise
>>local tax caps and increase city revenues." That is, whether the loss will
>>be \$36 million or "only" \$24 million, the auditors have "substantial doubt
>>about the city's ability to continue as a going concern." This is NOT a
>>report from the current city administration, but comes from the State Board
>>of Accounts, no apologists for Mayor Clay. So, what is to be done? Simply,
>>more money MUST be found, either from property taxes, a county income tax,
>>U.S. Steel, Barden casinos, or ??? But I don't see any suggestions from
>>Beach46403 (or any of the other critics of the current administration) to
>>deal with this looming disaster, except to further cut the city's budget.
>>Where should city spending further be cut? And I don't mean the small stuff
>>that seems to generate so much criticism, but millions and millions of
>>dollars in reduced services, \$24-\$36 million to be exact! Why would any
>>businesses stay in Gary if the city is doomed to disintegration? I hope the
>>MCC, Beach46403, etc. have some of the answers, but so far they have not
>>been forthcoming, except the Karl Rove, Grover Norquist mantra of cut, cut,
>>cut.

>>

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>

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Russo, Stephanie

From: by way of Jack Lund <londonjack@sbcglobal.net> [Beach46403@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2009 8:07 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Interpretation of Clay's letter/press release of 1/14/2009

In response to Mayor Rudolph Clay's press release of 1/14/2009, which appears in today's Hammond Times. It is available by a hyperlink within the story or by clicking here: < http://www.nwi.com/extras/pdfs/clay_statement.pdf >

My interpretation as read in the first person;

Please, please, let us continue to waste and steal and misappropriate the taxpayer's money for just a few more years. We promise, that in just 4 short years we will have stuffed our pockets enough.

It's not fair! We haven't been able to get away with as much as I had expected to because of all of the investigators that have been sticking their noses where they don't belong. If we can just get a few more years to do our thing once these outsiders are gone, we'll be happy. You know the way things work up here, it's just not right, now that I finally got the job I've wanted my entire adult life, that I am going to be forced to toe the line. It just ain't right! All the guys before me got to steal like crazy, why can't I?

These people in Gary don't care about how their tax money is spent, they just want to make sure that I can keep doing great things in Gary. They don't care if the city is in the toilet now, they just want to keep waiting for things to get better in the future. Like I keep telling them, "Gary's best days are ahead." Those suckers have waited this long, what's a few more years?

So please all you DUAB guys, give us permission to reach deep into the pockets of taxpayers (at least the ones I don't like anyway). I know we haven't really cut a gosh darn thing yet, but so what! It ain't your money, what do you care? If the rest of the businesses leave, big deal. We barely have any left anyway! We've got a plan for the vacancies they'll leave behind. We got our buddies and not-for-profit organizations lined up around the block waiting to come in. Once we make the transition from businesses to all not-for-profits, then go ahead and implement these stupid tax caps. It won't make any difference to us then. These businesses are a pain in the neck anyway; they are constantly complaining that we don't give any services. We know that, but most people are already used to that. It's only these pesky businesses and Miller people that won't keep their mouths shut. Good riddance! That's the messed up thing about these people that work for a living, they expect us to do some work for them in return. Forget that!

And please DUAB team, don't come up here and ask to look over our books, at least not both sets of them. We already sent you the set that we wanted you to go over. And we don't want you guys telling us how to do our job, we already know all of the places that we could make cuts, we just don't feel like it. So just stay down in Indy where you belong. We got it covered here in Gary.

And don't ask me why after I cut 37 million from my budget that peaked in 2007 at a little under 70 million, that it is still 65 million. That's just nitpicking. You see, that's a different kind of math. I don't know where you guys went to school, but I got my education on 25th Avenue. The way I look at it, it all adds up just fine. So don't believe the numbers, believe what we're telling you!

All you people just don't understand, this is Gary, Indiana. We do things different up here. We don't see why you won't just leave us alone and let us do things the way we want. Why don't you all just mind your own business and let us take care of business up here? Just leave us alone with our 65-million dollar budget and we'll be just fine. Don't listen to all of those crab-ass taxpayers. If they want services in return for their taxes, let them move somewhere else--somewhere that city leaders really care about their constituents. We ain't got time for that kind of stuff here, we're too busy working on big deals that we can skim off the top of. It doesn't matter if these projects ever get finished. There's no money in finishing a project. We get our money off the top--up front. Finishing these projects don't matter to me. I just want to see some more get started. That's where the money's at!

This ain't about the taxpayers getting a fair shake. It's about us getting our way. We matter more than them. We haven't listened to the taxpayers in years and we're not about to start now. Maybe we'll consider it in four more years. But then again, maybe not! We're entitled to their money. What in the world makes them think they should get something in return? These people writing these letters and doing all the complaining are just troublemakers.

You DUAB guys seem like smart fellas, can't you see I don't care a bit about anyone but myself and my old pals. Can't you see the last thing I need is for you guys to come up here and tell me how to do my job. I've already got a whole bunch of people telling me what to do. They think I'm doing just fine. The last thing me and them want is you guys to start meddling in our deals. You're just going to

mess everything up. Before you know it, people and businesses will be moving back to the city. That's the last thing we need! We already got too many of these Chicago people complaining about everything. I gotta' tell you, I'm sick of hearing it.

Those businesses and Miller people never liked me anyway. Why should I give a hoot about them? Once I get rid of the rest of the businesses and working people, I'll be home free. As long as "my people" don't have to pay any more taxes, they'll still love me. I'll be mayor forever! Hallelujah! Ya' see, I told you God was good!

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Russo, Stephanie

From: Jack Lund [londonjack@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Saturday, January 17, 2009 10:33 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: REPLY TO: Interpretation of Clay's letter/press release of 1/14/2009

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

From: Mark Christopher
To: Nora Glenn
Sent: Friday, January 16, 2009 10:20 AM
Subject: RE: Interpretation of Clay's letter/press release of 1/14/2009

If nothing else about Mayor Clay's letter is questionable, certainly those of us who have read the newspapers over the past couple years would take exception to his claim that he made an initial cut of \$11 million, which was mandated due to an "error made by a preceding administration." In reality, this was an accounting error (albeit a nasty one) that would have given the city \$11 million more than allowed by the State. Correcting the error was in no way a cut in the actual, allowable, correct budget. To take credit for that is arrogant, self-serving and just plain wrong. It would be like waking up one morning to find \$10,000 in your checking account that you didn't have the day before, not saying anything and waiting a couple months before the bank finally retracted it, and then boasting to your spouse that you saved \$10k because you didn't spend it first! But that's Rudy Clay. **For whatever reason, he continues to swindle and lie with no regard for discernable truth.** Perhaps it's true what Lincoln said (you can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time); but Mayor Clay must figure he can fool enough people long enough to get in at least a few more good years of this scam.

From: nglenn@netnitco.net
To: ;
Subject: Fw: Interpretation of Clay's letter/press release of 1/14/2009
Date: Thu, 15 Jan 2009 19:24:55 -0600

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

From: Beach46403@aol.com
To: Beach46403@aol.com ; nglenn@netnitco.net
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2009 10:51 AM
Subject: Interpretation of Clay's letter/press release of 1/14/2009

In response to Mayor Rudolph Clay's press release of 1/14/2009, which appears in today's Hammond Times. It is available by a hyperlink within the story or by clicking here: < http://www.nwi.com/extras/pdfs/clay_statement.pdf >

My interpretation as read in the first person;

Please, please, let us continue to waste and steal and misappropriate the taxpayer's money for just a few more years. We promise, that in just 4 short years will we will have stuffed our pockets enough.

It's not fair! We haven't been able to get away with as much as I had expected to because of all of the investigators that have been sticking their noses where they don't belong. If we can just get a few more years to do our thing once these outsiders are gone, we'll be happy. You know the way things work up here, it's just not right, now that I finally got the job I've wanted my entire adult life, that I am going to be forced to toe the line. It just ain't right! All the guys before me got to steal like crazy, why can't I?

These people in Gary don't care about how their tax money is spent, they just want to make sure that I can keep doing great things in Gary. They don't care if the city is in the toilet now, they just want to keep waiting for things to get better in the future. Like I keep telling them, "Gary's best days are ahead." Those suckers have waited this long, what's a few more years?

So please all you DUAB guys, give us permission to reach deep into the pockets of taxpayers (at least the ones I don't like anyway). I know we haven't really cut a gosh darn thing yet, but so what! It ain't your money, what do you care? If the rest of the businesses leave, big deal. We barely have any left anyway! We've got a plan for the vacancies they'll leave behind. We got our buddies and not-for-profit organizations lined up around the block waiting to come in. Once we make the transition from businesses to all not-for-profits, then go ahead and implement these stupid tax caps. It won't make any difference to us then. These businesses are a pain in the neck anyway; they are constantly complaining that we don't give any services. We know that, but most people are already used to that. It's only these pesky businesses and Miller people that won't keep their mouths shut. Good riddance! That's the messed up thing about these people that work for a living, they expect us to do some work for them in return. Forget that!

And please DUAB team, don't come up here and ask to look over our books, at least not both sets of them. We already sent you the set that we wanted you to go over. And we don't want you guys telling us how to do our job, we already know all of the places that we could make cuts, we just don't feel like it. So just stay down in Indy where you belong. We got it covered here in Gary.

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All you people just don't understand, this is Gary, Indiana. We do things different up here. We don't see why you won't just leave us alone and let us do things the way we want. Why don't you all just mind your own business and let us take care of business up here? Just leave us alone with our 65-million dollar budget and we'll be just fine. Don't listen to all of those crab-ass taxpayers. If they want services in return for their taxes, let them move somewhere else--somewhere that city leaders really care about their constituents. We ain't got time for that kind of stuff here, we're too busy working on big deals that we can skim off the top of. It doesn't matter if these projects ever get finished. There's no money in finishing a project. We get our money off the top--up front. Finishing these projects don't matter to me. I just want to see some more get started. That's where the money's at!

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You DUAB guys seem like smart fellas, can't you see I don't care a bit about anyone but myself and my old pals. Can't you see the last thing I need is for you guys to come up here and tell me how to do my job. I've already got a whole bunch of people telling me what to do. They think I'm doing just fine. The last thing me and them want is you guys to start meddling in our deals. You're just going to mess everything up. Before you know it, people and businesses will be moving back to the city. That's the last thing we need! We already got too many of these Chicago people complaining about everything. I gotta' tell you, I'm sick of hearing it.

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Russo, Stephanie

From: andrea basarich [abasarich@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 18, 2009 7:51 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Fw: Fw: Quit calling it a State bailout!

What a shame that the City of Gary has been warned of a visit. It now gives the Mayor time to tell all the unnessecary employees to take the day off.

--- On Sat, 1/17/09, nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net> wrote:

From: nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net>
Subject: Fw: Fw: Quit calling it a State bailout!
To: Undisclosed-Recipient@yahoo.com
Date: Saturday, January 17, 2009, 8:04 PM

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

From: "Peggy Vanhala Blackwell"
<peggy.vanhala.blackwell@gmail.com>
To: "nglenn" <nglenn@netnitco.net>
Sent: Saturday, January 17, 2009 11:17 AM
Subject: Re: Fw: Quit calling it a State bailout!

> Maybe Gary needs what happened to Flint, Michigan a few years ago.....

>

> By 2002 Flint had accrued a \$35 million debt. Unable to pay this and
> balance its budget, the state of Michigan placed the city into
> receivership late that year, with a financial manager effectively
> replacing the acting mayor. In 2004, local control was resumed and the
> city has maintained a balanced budget since.

>

> It took a few years, but they managed to align the budget with the
> necessary services. I'm not saying that all of the problems went
> away, but eventually the city manager's job was done, and Flint was
> able to start over with a clean slate.

>

>

>

>

>

> On Thu, Jan 15, 2009 at 8:00 PM, nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net> wrote:

>>

>> ----- Original Message -----

>> **From:** Ted Prettyman

>> **To:** nglenn

>> **Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 10:03 AM

>> **Subject:** Re: Quit calling it a State bailout!

>> Tom is quite correct. The state has made it abundantly clear that, in

>> it's

>> view, Lake County taxing units have sufficient funds to perform their
>> responsibilities - at the level circa 2005. Its view is that the
problem

>> is

>> stewardship of revenues rather than the amounts.

>>

>> The city's pathetic presentation before the DUAB is clear

evidence of
>> the
>> gross defencies plaguing Gary City Government.
>>
>> You should have been there.
>>
>> TedP
>>
>>
>>
>> From: nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net>
>> To: Undisclosed-Recipient@yahoo.com
>> Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2009 7:18:39 PM
>> Subject: Fw: Quit calling it a State bailout!
>>
>>
>> ----- Original Message -----
>> From: <mcceaton@aol.com>
>> To: <nglenn@netnitco.net>
>> Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2009 9:35 PM
>> Subject: Re: Quit calling it a State bailout!
>>
>>
>>> Let's go back to the title of this e-mail: "Quit calling
it a State
>>> bailout". The only people who are being asked to do any
bailing are
>>> US. The city wants the state to relax the tax caps so they can
collect
>>> more money from US TAXPAYERS. No one in the state government has
ever
>>> suggested that the state would give money to the city of Gary.
>>>
>>> Tom Eaton
>>>
>>>
>>> -----Original Message-----
>>> From: nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net>
>>> To: Undisclosed-Recipient;;
>>> Sent: Sun, 11 Jan 2009 6:26 pm
>>> Subject: Fw: Quit calling it a State bailout!
>>>
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>>>
>>> ----- Original Message -----
>>> From: Nicole
>>>
>>> To: Nora Glenn Miller Lady
>>>
>>> Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2009 5:06 AM
>>>
>>> Subject: Quit calling it a State bailout!
>>>
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>>>
>>> Hello,
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>>>
>>> Who decides to provide bailout money to the Gary community? Would
the
>>> House Financial Institution Committee make this decision? Are we
>>> depending upon Governor Daniels? I would like to forward this
email to
>>> each official responsible for the decisions made pertaining to the
>>> bailout.

>>>
>>>
>>>
>>> Thank you,
>>>
>>>

>>>
>>> Nicole
>>> --- On Sun, 1/11/09, nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net> wrote:
>>>
>>>

>>> From: nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net>
>>> Subject: Fw: Quit calling it a State bailout!
>>> To: Undisclosed-Recipient@yahoo.com
>>> Date: Sunday, January 11, 2009, 12:12 AM
>>>
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>>> ----- Original Message -----
>>> From: Beach46403@aol.com
>>>
>>> To
>>> : srusso@sba.in.gov
>>>
>>> Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 10:55 AM
>>>
>>> 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 afterward.
>>> 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=2 OAppeals 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

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steps!
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Russo, Stephanie

From: andrea basarich [abasarich@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 18, 2009 8:01 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Fw: Interpretation of Clay's letter/press release of 1/14/2009

--- On Sat, 1/17/09, nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net> wrote:

From: nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net>
Subject: Fw: Interpretation of Clay's letter/press release of 1/14/2009
To: Undisclosed-Recipient@yahoo.com
Date: Saturday, January 17, 2009, 7:04 PM

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

From: Mark Christopher
To: Nora Glenn
Sent: Friday, January 16, 2009 10:20 AM
Subject: RE: Interpretation of Clay's letter/press release of 1/14/2009

If nothing else about Mayor Clay's letter is questionable, certainly those of us who have read the newspapers over the past couple years would take exception to his claim that he made an initial cut of \$11 million, which was mandated due to an "error made by a preceding administration." In reality, this was an accounting error (albeit a nasty one) that would have given the city \$11 million more than allowed by the State. Correcting the error was in no way a cut in the actual, allowable, correct budget. To take credit for that is arrogant, self-serving and just plain wrong. It would be like waking up one morning to find \$10,000 in your checking account that you didn't have the day before, not saying anything and waiting a couple months before the bank finally retracted it, and then boasting to your spouse that you saved \$10k because you didn't spend it first! But that's Rudy Clay. For whatever reason, he continues to swindle and lie with no regard for discernable truth. Perhaps it's true what Lincoln said (you can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time); but Mayor Clay must figure he can fool enough people long enough to get in at least a few more good years of this scam.

From: nglenn@netnitco.net
To: ;
Subject: Fw: Interpretation of Clay's letter/press release of 1/14/2009
Date: Thu, 15 Jan 2009 19:24:55 -0600

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

From: Beach46403@aol.com
To: Beach46403@aol.com ; nglenn@netnitco.net
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2009 10:51 AM
Subject: Interpretation of Clay's letter/press release of 1/14/2009

In response to Mayor Rudolph Clay's press release of 1/14/2009, which appears in today's Hammond Times. It is

available by a hyperlink within the story or by clicking here: < http://www.nwi.com/extras/pdfs/clay_statement.pdf >

My interpretation as read in the first person;

Please, please, let us continue to waste and steal and misappropriate the taxpayer's money for just a few more years. We promise, that in just 4 short years will we will have stuffed our pockets enough.

It's not fair! We haven't been able to get away with as much as I had expected to because of all of the investigators that have been sticking their noses where they don't belong. If we can just get a few more years to do our thing once these outsiders are gone, we'll be happy. You know the way things work up here, it's just not right, now that I finally got the job I've wanted my entire adult life, that I am going to be forced to toe the line. It just ain't right! All the guys before me got to steal like crazy, why can't I?

These people in Gary don't care about how their tax money is spent, they just want to make sure that I can keep doing great things in Gary. They don't care if the city is in the toilet now, they just want to keep waiting for things to get better in the future. Like I keep telling them, "Gary's best days are ahead." Those suckers have waited this long, what's a few more years?

So please all you DUAB guys, give us permission to reach deep into the pockets of taxpayers (at least the ones I don't like anyway). I know we haven't really cut a gosh darn thing yet, but so what! It ain't your money, what do you care? If the rest of the businesses leave, big deal. We barely have any left anyway! We've got a plan for the vacancies they'll leave behind. We got our buddies and not-for-profit organizations lined up around the block waiting to come in. Once we make the transition from businesses to all not-for-profits, then go ahead and implement these stupid tax caps. It won't make any difference to us then. These businesses are a pain in the neck anyway; they are constantly complaining that we don't give any services. We know that, but most people are already used to that. It's only these pesky businesses and Miller people that won't keep their mouths shut. Good riddance! That's the messed up thing about these people that work for a living, they expect us to do some work for them in return. Forget that!

And please DUAB team, don't come up here and ask to look over our books, at least not both sets of them. We already sent you the set that we wanted you to go over. And we don't want you guys telling us how to do our job, we already know all of the places that we could make cuts, we just don't feel like it. So just stay down in Indy where you belong. We got it covered here in Gary.

And don't ask me why after I cut 37 million from my budget that peaked in 2007 at a little under 70 million, that it is still 65 million. That's just nitpicking. You see, that's a different kind of math. I don't know where you guys went to school, but I got my education on 25th Avenue. The way I look at it, it all adds up just fine. So don't believe the numbers, believe what we're telling you!

All you people just don't understand, this is Gary, Indiana. We do things different up here. We don't see why you won't just leave us alone and let us do things the way we want. Why don't you all just mind your own business and let us take care of business up here? Just leave us alone with our 65-million dollar budget and we'll be just fine. Don't listen to all of those crab-ass taxpayers. If they want services in return for their taxes, let them move somewhere else--somewhere that city leaders really care about their constituents. We ain't got time for that kind of stuff here, we're too busy working on big deals that we can skim off the top of. It doesn't matter if these projects ever get finished. There's no money in finishing a project. We get our money off the top--up front. Finishing these projects don't matter to me. I just want to see some more get started. That's where the money's at!

This ain't about the taxpayers getting a fair shake. It's about us getting our way. We matter more than them. We haven't listened to the taxpayers in years and we're not about to start now. Maybe we'll consider it in four more years. But then again, maybe not! We're entitled to their money. What in the world makes them think they should get something in return? These people writing these letters and doing all the complaining are just troublemakers.

You DUAB guys seem like smart fellas, can't you see I don't care a bit about anyone but myself and my old pals. Can't you see the last thing I need is for you guys to come up here and tell me how to do my job. I've already got a whole bunch of people telling me what to do. They think I'm doing just fine. The last thing me and them want is you guys to start meddling in our deals. You're just going to mess everything up. Before you know it, people and businesses will be moving back to the city. That's the last thing we need! We already got too many of these Chicago people complaining about everything. I gotta' tell you, I'm sick of hearing it.

Those businesses and Miller people never liked me anyway. Why should I give a hoot about them? Once I get rid of the rest of the businesses and working people, I'll be home free. As long as "my people" don't have to pay any more taxes,

they'll still love me. I'll be mayor forever! Hallelujah! Ya' see, I told you God was good!

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Russo, Stephanie

From: andrea basarich [abasarich@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 18, 2009 8:03 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Fw: letter to the editor on shovel-ready

--- On Sat, 1/17/09, nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net> wrote:

From: nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net>
Subject: Fw: letter to the editor on shovel-ready
To: Undisclosed-Recipient@yahoo.com
Date: Saturday, January 17, 2009, 6:53 PM

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

From: Darryl M. Harris Sr.
To: nglenn@netnitco.net
Sent: Friday, January 16, 2009 6:37 AM
Subject: FW: letter to the editor on shovel-ready

Ms Glenn,

This Forwarded Message will help get you caught up speed.

Darryl

All Change Agents,

Just in case you may not have known, 'there is an City Ordinance that clearly states that city residence are to be first in line for hiring of city contracted work and for City Departments: Clay and King both ignored this ordinance and refused to enforce it. On another note the City Council also passed a Ordinance giving the Mayor the authority and power over all privatization and outsourcing that is proposed to the city. This was done under Mayor King. Now here is where we can we formulate a plan of action attacking both issues.

1. We must demand that the City Council "Resend" that ordinance that gives the Mayor full authority, over Privatization and City Contracts. **Take Direct Action**
2. We must use the 'Impeachment Process' provided to us through city codes as means to apply pressures and leverage. "Impeaching the Mayor for violating City Code". I will be submitting those ordinances to you as soon as time allows. **Take Direct Action**
3. We Must Support the "Right to Recall Elected Officials" legislative Proposal that has been submitted to Indiana Legislature earlier this month. (It may not have been submitted yet but we should investigate) Here is the link to that petition: <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/indianarecall/> there are approximately 40 signatures on it already but we must work as team and let everyone we know about this and get them on board. Reminding them that "WE must BE The Change we Seek" **Take Direct Action**

The City Council and all these incompetent elected official are threatened by our ability to remove them at anytime during their terms and we must fight fight and fight some more.

Together there will be nothing that can stop us when we take "Direct Action".

We must make a noise so loud on the local level that it gets the attention of Washington: There is going to be a great deal of money made available to our city and we must not allow "Business As Usual"

Darryl

From: Needleman, Ruth A. [mailto:rneedle@iun.edu]

Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2009 11:09 AM

Subject: RE: letter to the editor on shovel-ready

Importance: High

Dear All,

I made changes in the document to reflect the existence of shovel-ready projects but then added language about the fact that the governor will distribute the funds. I also put strong language on making sure contractors and workers in Gary get a fair share of the work.

What we might want to think about in terms of an action, is "Gary has the Shovel-Ready projects" and Gary residents need to be shovel ready and assured those jobs. The theme might be: "Make us Shovel Ready" with training programs in place as part of the projects and residency requirements on the hiring of contractors and workers.

We would invite our representatives to our rally and ask them to make sure we are shovel ready and guaranteed the good jobs and the green jobs. We would ask everyone to show up with a shovel and signs or banners such as "hire me-I'm shovel ready!"

Let me know how I should proceed with the new draft. Ruth

Russo, Stephanie

From: Shirley, Richard W SSG NG NG NGB [richard.shirley1@us.army.mil]
Sent: Sunday, January 18, 2009 10:52 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Re: RE: BAIL OUT FOR CITY OF GARY

Thank you! I will trust that all decision makers will have a copy of this email along with everyone's else--it;s important. Thanks again.

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

From: "Russo, Stephanie" <srusso@sba.in.gov>
Date: Friday, January 16, 2009 15:21
Subject: RE: BAIL OUT FOR CITY OF GARY
To: "Shirley, Richard W SSG NG NG NGB" <richard.shirley1@us.army.mil>

> I am in receipt of your email. Thank you.

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

> -----Original Message-----

> **From:** Shirley, Richard W SSG NG NG NGB
> [mailto:richard.shirley1@us.army.mil]
> **Sent:** Friday, January 16, 2009 1:10 PM
> **To:** Russo, Stephanie
> **Subject:** BAIL OUT FOR CITY OF GARY

>
> Please DO NOT give the City of Gary any kind of bail out or tax
> credits or deferments. All you have to do is look in the phone
> book at the listing of all of the different job titles. They
> appear to be a fortune 500 company! 70% of the jobs are
> meaningless and are there to provide fake jobs for family &
> friends. His son has multiple contracts with the City; he also
> uses the church & food pantries for his benefit. His wife is on
> the Weights & measures board. None of the city departments are
> functional. The street department for example is full of ghost
> payrollling--nobody is ever there and they do NOTHING. Dont be
> fooled by this snake in the grass. People are paying taxes and
> getting nothing for it! Please DO THE RIGHT THING AND DENY THE
> CITY OF GARY evrything you can. They need to sink or drown. They
> caused this problem and it will never end if you keep enabling
> them. Do what your are truly suppose to do.THE RIGHT THING! thats
> best for all of us taxpayers.

Russo, Stephanie

From: AYoung7550@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, January 18, 2009 1:18 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Fwd: Fw: Interpretation of Clay's letter/press release of 1/14/2009

From: nglenn@netnitco.net
To: Undisclosed-Recipient;;
Sent: 1/17/2009 6:50:08 P.M. Central Standard Time
Subj: Fw: Interpretation of Clay's letter/press release of 1/14/2009

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

From: Mark Christopher
To: Nora Glenn
Sent: Friday, January 16, 2009 10:20 AM
Subject: RE: Interpretation of Clay's letter/press release of 1/14/2009

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From: nglenn@netnitco.net
To: ;
Subject: Fw: Interpretation of Clay's letter/press release of 1/14/2009
Date: Thu, 15 Jan 2009 19:24:55 -0600

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

From: Beach46403@aol.com
To: Beach46403@aol.com ; nglenn@netnitco.net
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2009 10:51 AM
Subject: Interpretation of Clay's letter/press release of 1/14/2009

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< http://www.nwi.com/extras/pdfs/clay_statement.pdf >

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

Russo, Stephanie

From: AYoung7550@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, January 18, 2009 8:44 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Sunday's editorial in the Post-Tribune 1/18/2009

Stop placing blame and cut city expenses

[Recommend \(1\)](#)
[Comments](#)

January 18, 2009

Gary Mayor Rudy Clay continues to use the words "inheritance" and "mismanagement" as he talks about the city's financial woes.

Clay says he has not mismanaged anything, but inherited a massive problem from former Mayor Scott King.

It's time for Clay to stop placing blame and fully address the problems. That's the mayor's job. Pointing fingers won't get anything done.

There is plenty of blame to go around for Gary's financial troubles. For instance:

* Several mayors over the years failed to cut the amount of city government as the population plummeted from almost 200,000 to less than 100,000 today.

* While some contend the tax cut the Legislature provided U.S. Steel almost a decade ago was too large, the fact is the city failed to reduce costs in response to the loss of property tax revenue.

* With breaks to U.S. Steel, the closure of many businesses and the exodus of much of the population, reassessment and property tax caps have had a negative impact on those who remain.

Rather than pointing fingers, what Clay needs to do is get together a plan to make immediate cuts without endangering public safety.

That's what Ryan Kitchell, chairman of the Indiana Distressed Unit Appeals Board, meant when he said, "The mayor proposed making cuts over a four-year period. Why wait until year three or four to cut something that could be cut today?"

The board surely will watch for that. If there are obsolete or unneeded departments, get rid of them. If two people can do the jobs of three, do so.

And one more thing, mayor. Get rid of the Hummer. It's not the cost, but the image.

Related Blog Posts

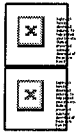
[Property Rebate & Tax Fight Goes On and On and On: The property tax rebate, budget cut...](#)

From Curbed

[I Know the Mayor Now...](#)

From Crotonblog: The blog of Croton on Hudson, NY 10520

The views expressed in these blog posts are those of the author and not of the Post-Tribune.



justice for some wrote:

<http://www.in.gov/sos/pdfs/Referendum.pdf>

[Unable to display image]

Impeachment law for the State of Indiana
1/18/2009 8:02 AM CST on post-trib.com

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justice for some wrote:

Perhaps with the federal investigation of GSD, Clay will not get away with all of his misdeeds. All of the cities in Lake County should have a law against hiring and contracting to felons. They recirculate back to "where the money is" like dead fish washing up in the tide. They probably have no such rules on the books, as that would be protection for the people- and these local governments are not "for the people".

[Unable to display image]

1/18/2009 7:34 AM CST on post-trib.com

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spikey wrote:

If people truly want to impeach him, someone needs to look to see if there is a city ordinance that addresses this or a State statute. Without any of that the point hold no water. People can talk all they want about impeaching him, but if the council is not behind it nothing will happen.....

[Unable to display image]

1/18/2009 5:56 AM CST on post-trib.com

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millerbeach wrote:

How do we begin impeachment of this mayor? He has been an embarrassment to this city ever since he took the helm. Such hubris and arrogance has no place in the city of Gary. We need a leader interested in the improvement of the city, not his own wallet.

[Unable to display image]

1/18/2009 5:37 AM CST on post-trib.com

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gary watcher wrote:

Amen to everything said.

[Unable to display image]

Bottom line, Rudy doesn't have a clue or a plan!

Rudy Clay is the problem and the solution is Immediate Recall!

1/18/2009 4:35 AM CST on post-trib.com

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Russo, Stephanie

From: Pamela Vance [pamv0329@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 18, 2009 8:56 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Cc: Pamela Vance
Subject:

Dear Ms. Russo:

Please be aware that the day after Rudy Clay and his cronies came to the DUAB begging for property tax relief, he treated himself to a 2009 Hummer H3 for \$30,000.00 at taxpayer expense.

When confronted, his reply was "What do you want me to do, walk around here?" "I've got to have a car." I've got one of the cheapest SUV's on the highway." "...and it's like the world is coming to an end."

He is not even aware a hummer is a low mileage truck and not a car (14 mpg city and 18 mpg highway). What many of us would like to know is what was wrong with his 2006 Hummer H3? Better yet, what is wrong with driving his own vehicle, paying for his own gas and insurance?

He could be driving himself in one of the 200+ city vehicles, of which most are Ford Crown Victorias.

This is not a purchase that will make a major impact on the budget of Gary. But it does show the arrogance of the man and that maybe the city is not so broke after all.

I am so glad to see that some members of the DUAB are coming to Gary so see for themselves what is really going on. They will be able to see unnecessary departments and workers. Maybe they'll be able to see the new Hummer if they are lucky.

Thank you,

Pamela Vance
4754 Van Buren Street
Gary, IN 46408
pamv032942@att.net

Russo, Stephanie

From: andrea basarich [abasarich@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, January 19, 2009 2:32 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Fw: The Department of Redevelopment et al, a.k.a....

This is a long one but well worth the read. He is spot on with all that he has to say.

--- On Mon, 1/19/09, Beach46403@aol.com <Beach46403@aol.com> wrote:

From: Beach46403@aol.com <Beach46403@aol.com>
Subject: The Department of Redevelopment et al, a.k.a....
To: Beach46403@aol.com
Date: Monday, January 19, 2009, 11:40 AM

...Destruction specialists

The City department that far and away does the most damage to the city is the Department of Redevelopment, or as I prefer to call them; the Department of Undevelopment, or the Department of Destruction, and most appropriate of all; the Department of Obstruction.

Now why was this the only taxing unit in the entire city that wasn't down in Indy on their knees with their hands out for more of our money? Begging for mercy?

Did they forget? Did this department miss the deadline to file for relief? Are they operating so efficiently that they don't need more money? Have they made the cuts to operate within their new, mandated budget?

Unfortunately, the answer is "none of the above".

So then, why weren't they down in Indy?

The short answer is; they'd probably rather go hungry for a bit rather than be on an extended vacation. (You know what I'm talking about, the all expenses paid type of vacation, except not to some tropical land. Three hots and a cot.)

This is where all the bodies are buried. This is the department that plays by its own rules. This has been the go-to place whenever any deal needs that "special treatment", that special touch that can only be found here. When a deal needs that little massaging, everyone in the city knows where to go--the Department of Redevelopment.

Still under the remote control of the deputy mayor, not a move is made by her own personal robot, Vanesse Dabney, that hasn't already received the blessing of her predecessor, Geraldine Tousant.

Just to be clear, they are generally referred to as a city department, but they are also a separate taxing unit. So having opted out of the Distressed Unit Appeal process, their budget WILL be cut. They are stuck with the cuts. This was a conscious decision, though. A decision born out of self-preservation by and for its operatives.

Damage Control

They knew exactly what they were doing and exactly why they were doing it. This department doesn't want to be subjected to any performance review. This department does not want anybody looking at their books. They can't risk being put under a microscope, or a magnifying glass for that matter. They don't even want anyone looking in their direction. I think they'd like to become invisible. But this is as close as they can come.

Again, this is where all of the bodies are buried. This is where the road maps are kept to all of the rotting carcasses. They hold the "Ark of the Covenant" and all of the secrets it contains--all of those dirty little secrets. They played a key role in the Baseball Stadium fiasco. They have been involved in every financial debacle in the city in the past 40 years. Every time the taxpayers have taken the pipe, this department's fingerprints have been all over it.

So even if their budget gets slashed, they will quietly submit to any hardships it places on them. They simply can't run the risk of this heightened level of scrutiny which would come with any State-authorized relief.

Hey...trust me, this dept can burn through cash with the best of them, just like the rest of the departments. Their budget isn't all that big so they simply opted out of the process. They'll still be able to shift money around to get by. It's just that the last thing Tousant and Dabney (and a whole lot of others, past and present) want is the State going over their books with a fine-toothed comb. There is enough paper trail there to get everybody some unwanted time off!

Barricades and roadblocks

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All that has to happen for this area and this city to realize unbridled prosperity is get these goofballs--that have been destroying our city for years--out of the way. DUAB members; our city's fate and the fate of the region is in your hands. We trust that you will do the right thing! Don't just turn them down cold. Turn their world inside out and upside down! And give us ours back in the process. Set ours back right again!

Change? Yes we must!

It's time for a sea change. This ship is sinking fast. She is nose up and taking on water heavily. Let her sink. Let her go to the bottom where she belongs. Life rafts and all. But in the wake and turbulence left behind, we can build a new sleek craft to guide us into the waters of the future.

The old ship was built for another time, for another world. Neither exist anymore. We need one that is able to navigate the new routes. These new lanes require a more efficient and maneuverable design. There is just no way to convert the old ship to service in the new theater.

Sink the old, christen the new!

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

Russo, Stephanie

From: nglenn [nglenn@netnitco.net]
Sent: Monday, January 19, 2009 2:57 PM
To: Congressman Pete Visclosky; Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Fw: The Department of Redevelopment et al, a.k.a....

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

From: Beach46403@aol.com
To: Beach46403@aol.com
Sent: Monday, January 19, 2009 10:40 AM
Subject: The Department of Redevelopment et al, a.k.a....

...Destruction specialists

The City department that far and away does the most damage to the city is the Department of Redevelopment, or as I prefer to call them; the Department of Undevelopment, or the Department of Destruction, and most appropriate of all; the Department of Obstruction.

Now why was this the only taxing unit in the entire city that wasn't down in Indy on their knees with their hands out for more of our money? Begging for mercy?

Did they forget? Did this department miss the deadline to file for relief? Are they operating so efficiently that they don't need more money? Have they made the cuts to operate within their new, mandated budget?

Unfortunately, the answer is "none of the above".

So then, why weren't they down in Indy?

The short answer is; they'd probably rather go hungry for a bit rather than be on an extended vacation. (You know what I'm talking about, the all expenses paid type of vacation, except not to some tropical land. Three hots and a cot.)

This is where all the bodies are buried. This is the department that plays by its own rules. This has been the go-to place whenever any deal needs that "special treatment", that special touch that can only be found here. When a deal needs that little massaging, everyone in the city knows where to go--the Department of Redevelopment.

Still under the remote control of the deputy mayor, not a move is made by her own personal robot, Vanesse Dabney, that hasn't already received the blessing of her predecessor, Geraldine Tousant.

Just to be clear, they are generally referred to as a city department, but they are also a separate taxing unit. So having opted out of the Distressed Unit Appeal process, their budget WILL be cut. They are stuck with the cuts. This was a conscious decision, though. A decision born out of self-preservation by and for its operatives.

Damage Control

They knew exactly what they were doing and exactly why they were doing it. This department doesn't want to be subjected to any performance review. This department does not want anybody looking at their books. They can't risk being put under a microscope, or a magnifying glass for that matter. They don't even want anyone looking in their direction. I think they'd like to become invisible. But this is as close as they can come.

Again, this is where all of the bodies are buried. This is where the road maps are kept to all of the rotting carcasses. They hold the "Ark of the Covenant" and all of the secrets it contains--all of those dirty little secrets. They played a key role in the Baseball Stadium fiasco. They have been involved in every financial debacle in the city in the past 40 years. Every time the taxpayers have taken the pipe, this department's fingerprints have been all over it.

So even if their budget gets slashed, they will quietly submit to any hardships it places on them. They simply can't run the risk of this heightened level of scrutiny which would come with any State-authorized relief.

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the last thing Tousant and Dabney (and a whole lot of others, past and present) want is the State going over their books with a fine-toothed comb. There is enough paper trail there to get everybody some unwanted time off!

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Russo, Stephanie

From: Jack Lund [londonjack@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, January 16, 2009 4:34 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Demolition Men: Gary's Departments That Do Little to No Work

I have modified the subject line, hopefully so as to better convey the essence of this devastating piece. JWL

X-Apparently-To: londonjack@sbcglobal.net via 209.191.72.41; Fri, 16 Jan 2009 05:07:58 -0800
X-Originating-IP: [64.12.143.100]
Authentication-Results: mta106.sbc.mail.re3.yahoo.com from=aol.com; domainkeys=neutral (no sig)
X-Originating-IP: [64.12.143.100]
From: Beach46403@aol.com
Date: Fri, 16 Jan 2009 08:07:19 EST
Subject: Demolition Men
To: nglenn@netnitco.net
X-Mailer: AOL 9.1 sub 34
X-Spam-Flag: NO
X-Antivirus: AVG for E-mail 7.5.552 [270.10.8/1897]

If we are looking for ways to cut the City's budget, one department we immediately find which is a perfect candidate for a place to start cutting, is the In-House Demolition Department. Now if there weren't half a dozen or so local demolition contractors chomping at the bit for the same exact kind of work that this department performs--that it performs every so often when they have the money to pay the landfill fees--we might be able to justify the city's need for an in-house demolition department. But that is not the case. Our city has plenty of local, Gary-based companies both very willing and quite able to assume the task. And they could surely do it a lot cheaper than the City does.

However, with having our own demolition department, one would not expect the need for the City to put so much demolition work out for bid. They have a full-blown department with their own equipment, their own payroll, their own department head, and their own budget. ***So if we have this department, why do we have to contract out for demolition services? Or better yet, if we contract out for demolition services, why do we have our own demolition department?***

The mystery is not all that deep. We find the answers simply by observing how this department, along with their companion department--the Department of Redevelopment (DOR)--operate. The demolition department really acts as an arm of the DOR. They really don't do much else other than act on orders of the DOR. The most noticeable costs associated with this department are the payroll costs. They have a full-time payroll, 52 weeks per year, but they most certainly are not doing demolition every day, or even every week! The last time the city ran out of money, they didn't work for months. But they never laid anyone off. They never reassigned the demo workers to other jobs. They just didn't do any demo work. But they did continue to draw their full pay. They just didn't do any work. Most didn't even come to work!

Personally, I don't see how the demolition department would ever get a day off! (But they do. They rarely do any work.) Rudy said he's carrying around pictures of 2000 abandoned structures in his pocket. He plans on giving these to Obama and Bayh at the inauguration. In the presentation to the DUAB the City said there are 4000 abandoned buildings. If the taxpayers are paying for this department to be there on a full-time basis, why are they only working part-time? Why is this department getting full-time pay for its very part-time work? There is demolition work in Gary needing to be done from now until the end of time!

But back to why we have our own demolition department AND still contract out a lot of the city-ordered demolition work in the city; They contract out the hard jobs. These guys really don't want to work too hard. They wreck a few small houses. They'll wreck some frame two-story units. (Just enough to give the impression they are doing something.) But they really aren't interested in cracking a

sweat on any of the larger jobs. But there are some exceptions to this. If a building has a lot of steel in it, expect our in-house crew to be all over it. Why you ask? Fringe benefits! The demolition crews keep all of the money from the scrap they recover from demo jobs while on City time, while using City equipment, and while drawing a City paycheck. Why doesn't this money go to the City to help offset their budget? What possible reason could there be that the crews are allowed to keep this money? Well, I really shouldn't say the crews as much as the crew leaders. But nonetheless, when they get any scrap iron from any city job, the money NEVER gets back to the City. (This is not an inconsequential amount. Last year they surely collected over \$100,000.00 from the sale of scrap.) Maybe we should ask the big cheeses that oversee every move made by these crews; that would be Geraldine Tousant and Vanesse Dabney. You would have to think that the deputy mayor and a department head would be quite concerned with the City getting beat out of all of this money, wouldn't you? Unless....hmmm....you might have something there.

There are just so many ways that the General Services, the Parks department, the Vehicle Maintenance, Streets and Sanitation, Plowing, and the Demolition departments could be consolidated that it barely is worth mentioning; however, doing so would mean the elimination of half-a-dozen fiefdoms with one stroke. Nobody wants to get rid of the fiefdoms, because these fiefdoms support the kingdom. Sometimes this kingdom is referred to as the City of Gary. Clay can't eliminate fiefdoms without weakening his personal kingdom. He thinks he is the king. Unfortunately, he is so weak that he can't stand on his own without the protection and support of all these sycophantic employees and departments. Keeping him mayor, which keeps his overblown ego inflated, costs Gary taxpayers dearly.

I'd start cutting here. But the only place Rudy can ever to think of to start cutting the budget is public safety. Do you think he is just saying that to scare us? I'd be embarrassed to make that threat. Making this threat, Rudy is implying that we have adequate public safety now. What do you think? When I can read the papers for a couple of weeks straight and not have to read about some twenty-something being shot by another twenty-something, or don't have to read about every other type of violent crime being reported 3 or 4 pages back in the paper, then maybe, but at the moment, the city really doesn't have a level of public safety that I'd be bragging about. Not at all!

Clay evidently can't see the forest through the trees. Wanna' bet the DUAB can!

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Russo, Stephanie

From: John Vinzant [john.vinzant@vinzantsoftware.com]
Sent: Monday, January 19, 2009 6:47 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: DUAB Vist to Gary

Hi Stephanie:

If the DUAB members come to town Wednesday, - no I don't want to meet with them - have them stroll through City Hall and observe all the employees there. Have them visit the Clerk's Office, the Sanitary District Billing office, the Township Assessor's office, the Township Trustee's office, the Gary Street Department/Public Works office. Have them visit the Park Department offices. Let the Board members see all these offices filled with people. Then have them look at the condition of our City. They may draw their own conclusions as to what benefit there may be in employing so many, many people to do the City's business. I think it would be difficult to escape the realization that the City of Gary has not for a moment been serious about putting its financial house in order.

Oh, and a friend of mine shared a theory to explain why our mayor suggests cutting public safety payrolls first (other than to incite fear) - he suggested that since a sizeable percentage of police do not live in the City, they can't vote for him (or against him). In Chicago, the theory is that each city worker is worth 11 votes from friends & family. By firing police, the mayor could avoid undercutting his voter base. It's just a theory ...

Anyway, I hope the board enjoys its visit. If they'd like a cocktail before leaving town, drop a line.

John Vinzant
Gary, Indiana

Russo, Stephanie

From: John Vinzant [john.vinzant@vinzantsoftware.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2009 9:08 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Cc: George Rogge
Subject: DUAB Gary Visit

We can arrange a meeting with Gary business owners sometime tomorrow if your board would like.

John Vinzant

NAT MCKNIGHT

Box 2874 Miller Station
Gary, IN. 46403
Phone (312) 613-9969
Rwy22n@aol.com

1/20/2009

Christopher D. Atkins
General Council
Office of Management & Budget
212 State House
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2796
(317) 232-5610

Dear Council,

The issue of Gary may require more time and investigation by several agencies. Problems exist with funds received against tax anticipation warrants. Upon review Of the recently published "new" assessed valuations of properties within the taxing unit(s) I discovered several instances of miss-applied trending. This is by no means an isolated problem. There was an attempt by the township assessor to raise the value of US Steel, with Total disregard for the law. The action resulted in a 380,000,000.00 dollar value shortfall. The assessor is adjusting the values for 07 pay 08. There are appeals I filed that date back To mid 2007. No answers,. No dates for PTBA hearings; Reminded these are 06 pay 07 appeals. 07 pay 08 values were "trended" on top of appealed parcels. The result is properties Assessed values have risen in some instances in excess of 3000% in two years. (This is no typo) These properties I mention were assessed by CLT, at those hearings, values were established And accepted by all parties. The township assessor is unlawfully reassessing through "trending" and denying the land owner The right to due process and notification as required by statue. This is a direct attempt at trying To "make up the difference of the US Steel error" And protect Gary's inflated budget. The problem is politically based, The County Dem. Party chair is the Mayor, He endorsed saving the Township assessor, in return the assessor illegally inflated the assessed valuation to fulfill the city Administration and City Council's expectations. The City eluded the necessary cuts to meet an actual budget. Instead, they continued to employ the "machine electorate" and Invite ghost pay rolling at taxpayer expense. They refuse to exist within the parameters of the actual collection. The theory they employ is, "Get The cash now", they don't care if there are future judgments added atop of the levy. It's an easy Way to circumvent the tax caps. Blatant disregard of standard practices and DUAB suggestions Provide ample verification. Collectively, the actions of Units of "Gary" government constitute a "Criminal Enterprise".

Sincerely
Nat McKnight

Cc/S.Russo
R.Kitchell

Russo, Stephanie

From: Shirley, Richard W SSG NG NG NGB [richard.shirley1@us.army.mil]
Sent: Friday, January 16, 2009 1:10 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: BAIL OUT FOR CITY OF GARY

Please DO NOT give the City of Gary any kind of bail out or tax credits or deferments. All you have to do is look in the phone book at the listing of all of the different job titles. They appear to be a fortune 500 company! 70% of the jobs are meaningless and are there to provide fake jobs for family & friends. His son has multiple contracts with the City; he also uses the church & food pantries for his benefit. His wife is on the Weights & measures board. None of the city departments are functional. The street department for example is full of ghost payrolling--nobody is ever there and they do NOTHING. Dont be fooled by this snake in the grass. People are paying taxes and getting nothing for it! Please DO THE RIGHT THING AND DENY THE CITY OF GARY evrything you can. They need to sink or drown. They caused this problem and it will never end if you keep enabling them. Do what your are truly suppose to do.THE RIGHT THING! thats best for all of us taxpayers.

Russo, Stephanie

From: Jack Lund [londonjack@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, January 19, 2009 7:23 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: BEACH - on "The Department of Redevelopment" in Gary: More Corruption?

DUAB: If you think that "you've heard it all" (about Gary's Petition), check out this letter! I don't know how "Beach" gets his information, or whether it is authentic - but its insights are something that I would prefer that you had in hand, to analyze, verify, and consider, before making a decision on the City of Gary's petition.

X-Apparently-To: londonjack@sbcglobal.net via 209.191.72.39; Mon, 19 Jan 2009 12:28:17 -0800

X-Originating-IP: [205.188.157.37]

Authentication-Results: mta131.sbc.mail.mud.yahoo.com from=aol.com; domainkeys=neutral (no sig)

Received: from 207.115.20.194 (EHLO flpi192.prodigy.net) (207.115.20.194)

by mta131.sbc.mail.mud.yahoo.com with SMTP; Mon, 19 Jan 2009 12:28:15 -0800

X-Originating-IP: [205.188.157.37]

Received: from imo-d05.mx.aol.com (imo-d05.mx.aol.com [205.188.157.37])

by flpi192.prodigy.net (8.13.8 inb regex/8.13.8) with ESMTP id n0JKSEfe006889

for <londonjack@sbcglobal.net>; Mon, 19 Jan 2009 12:28:14 -0800

Received: from Beach46403@aol.com

by imo-d05.mx.aol.com (mail_out_v39.1.) id j.cae.3e9d7bc8 (14467)

for <londonjack@sbcglobal.net>; Mon, 19 Jan 2009 15:28:07 -0500 (EST)

From: Beach46403@aol.com

Message-ID: <cae.3e9d7bc8.36a63c54@aol.com>

Date: Mon, 19 Jan 2009 15:28:04 EST

Subject: The Department of Redevelopment et al, a.k.a....

To: londonjack@sbcglobal.net

MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: multipart/alternative; boundary="-----1232396884"

X-Mailer: 9.0 SE for Windows sub 5048

X-Spam-Flag: NO

X-Antivirus: AVG for E-mail 7.5.552 [270.10.9/1902]

...Destruction specialists

The City department that far and away does the most damage to the city is the Department of Redevelopment, or as I prefer to call them; the Department of Undevelopment, or the Department of Destruction, and most appropriate of all; the Department of Obstruction.

Now why was this the only taxing unit in the entire city that wasn't down in Indy on their knees with their hands out for more of our money? Begging for mercy?

Did they forget? Did this department miss the deadline to file for relief? Are they operating so efficiently that they don't need more money? Have they made the cuts to operate within their new, mandated budget?

Unfortunately, the answer is "none of the above".

So then, why weren't they down in Indy?

The short answer is; they'd probably rather go hungry for a bit rather than be on an extended vacation. (You know what I'm talking about, the all expenses paid type of vacation, except not to some tropical land. Three hots and a cot.)

This is where all the bodies are buried. This is the department that plays by its own rules. This has been the go-to place whenever any

deal needs that "special treatment", that special touch that can only be found here. When a deal needs that little massaging, everyone in the city knows where to go--the Department of Redevelopment.

Still under the remote control of the deputy mayor, not a move is made by her own personal robot, Vanesse Dabney, that hasn't already received the blessing of her predecessor, Geraldine Tousant.

Just to be clear, they are generally referred to as a city department, but they are also a separate taxing unit. So having opted out of the Distressed Unit Appeal process, their budget WILL be cut. They are stuck with the cuts. This was a conscious decision, though. A decision born out of self-preservation by and for its operatives.

Damage Control

They knew exactly what they were doing and exactly why they were doing it. This department doesn't want to be subjected to any performance review. This department does not want anybody looking at their books. They can't risk being put under a microscope, or a magnifying glass for that matter. They don't even want anyone looking in their direction. I think they'd like to become invisible. But this is as close as they can come.

Again, this is where all of the bodies are buried. This is where the road maps are kept to all of the rotting carcasses. They hold the "Ark of the Covenant" and all of the secrets it contains--all of those dirty little secrets. They played a key role in the Baseball Stadium fiasco. They have been involved in every financial debacle in the city in the past 40 years. Every time the taxpayers have taken the pipe, this department's fingerprints have been all over it.

So even if their budget gets slashed, they will quietly submit to any hardships it places on them. They simply can't run the risk of this heightened level of scrutiny which would come with any State-authorized relief.

Hey...trust me, this dept can burn through cash with the best of them, just like the rest of the departments. Their budget isn't all that big so they simply opted out of the process. They'll still be able to shift money around to get by. It's just that the last thing Tousant and Dabney (and a whole lot of others, past and present) want is the State going over their books with a fine-toothed comb. There is enough paper trail there to get everybody some unwanted time off!

Barricades and roadblocks

This is the department that takes care of the City's real estate portfolio. They are the ones that buy and sell and hold the real estate. When you analyze the City's property holdings, you recognize that they have no particular development plan. Their property holdings are peppered over the entire city. When most cities acquire property to actually redevelop an area, they typically focus on one localized area. The City has obviously has no plan whatsoever to develop the entire city. They instead hold these properties--from one corner to the other--to be able to stand in the way of developments. There are very few blocks across the city that you won't find the City in ownership of a lot or two. The odds are in their favor. The City, and all of their variously named entities, own over 8000 properties. (This is a conservative estimate.) There are about 60,000 total pieces of property in the city. So the City owns one out of every 7 or 8 properties. With this, they have the ability of blocking development just about anywhere and everywhere in the city. And it works! It has been 100% effective!

And besides the City owning 8000 properties, the School City owns over 300, the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission owns almost 1000, the Lake County Commissioners own over 400, the Lake County Parks own several hundred more, there are many hundreds owned by churches, the railroads and other utilities own several hundred, the US Government owns over 500, the State of Indiana owns about 400, the Gary Housing Authority owns over 300, and there are well over a thousand owned by various not-for-profit organizations. So when you add it all up, one out of every 4 or 5 properties is owned by some non-taxable entity. And if this weren't enough of a formula for disaster, know this; many of the homes in Gary pay little or no taxes. When you combine the 2% cap with the \$45,000.00 Homestead exemption, and throw in a few more miscellaneous exemptions that many homeowners are eligible to receive, you will discover that an enormous percentage of the homes in Gary pay little or no taxes.

They couldn't have done it all alone!

They have had lots of help along the way. They have had plenty of accomplices. They are joined at the hip with the Empowerment Zone. They were cozy in bed with GUEA when they were doing their thing. They have been the right hand of every administration in the past 4 decades. (The hand that has been pick-pocketing the taxpayers all along.) The Economic Development Commission, while the name is confusingly similar, it is a separate department; however, it walks lockstep with the Department of Redevelopment. Simply put, they have many partners in crime.

How many city workers does it take to change a light bulb?

How many departments to wreck the city?

Apparently, all of them! The Department of Redevelopment, even with as much damage as they do all by themselves, can't take all of the blame. They've had a lot of help! There is also the Department of Community Development. This department used to be under the watchful eye of Letty Almodovar. (This one knew how to get while the gettin' was good.) It is now run by Jackie Drago Hunter. This is the wife of one of Clay's special agents from his days at the County. He also has surely followed his buddy Rudy to Gary. He is no doubt lurking somewhere in the shadows awaiting orders.

Then we have the Empowerment Zone, now under the direction of Scott Upshaw. It was formerly directed by Venus Cobb. She was in on every rotten deal we've gotten stuck with also. You may remember her from the newspaper story which reported on the cushy deal she got from her gal pal from GUEA. GUEA dumped nearly \$200,000.00 into remodeling a house in Emerson and then sold it to Venus for \$50,000.00. Why can't any of us get deals like this?

The former triumvirate which used to feature Jojuana Meeks (GUEA), Venus Cobb (EZ), and Vanesse Dabney (DOR), was a regular three-woman wrecking crew. But of course they had to disband when Jojuana got into a little hot water. ("little hot water" is more accurately described as 6 years of Federal time) Just months before GUEA went down in flames, the King administration announced that GUEA was the City's most important partner for development in the City of Gary. In retrospect, I wonder exactly what he meant by that? But now the Empowerment Zone is run by Scott Upshaw. He got promoted when Venus Cobb abandoned her post and opted to take a consultant job under Rudy Clay. And then there is the Director of Economic Development for the EZ, Ben Clement. Another do-nothing, know-nothing.

And let's not let "Mr. Walgreens" (bear with me)--our very own man on the go, Joel Rodriguez--off so easy. He runs around acting as the Mayor's special assistant in charge of economic development. But what does he do? What has he done? He is also apparently in charge of the City's Department of Economic Development. He also works for the Empowerment Zone. It's kind of hard to pin him down. He's hopping around doing so much economic development that it's hard to draw a bead on him. Clay touts Joel as the go-to guy for all economic development in the city. I think we're in a heap of trouble people!

Really, Joel is just here in Gary acting as the eyes and ears of his bosses from East Chicago--the bosses that are pulling Rudy's strings--and have been for years. He is here to monitor and report on his every move. Joel is their reconnaissance man. This is his primary function. Any "redevelopment" that he attracts to the city, will be purely by accident.

Then of course there is the Mayor's office and all of the staff that goes along with it. And last but not least effective of all, the Planning Department. Here comes the PG-rated version; If there is any one department that excels at self gratification and zero production, it is Chris Meyers' Planning Department. What he does in that little office of his all by himself all day is anybody's guess!

And what does the Gary Chamber of Commerce have to say about all of this? Not a word! Apparently they are satisfied with the way things are going. That's too bad!

All in all, there must be well over a hundred employees that are ostensibly in the position of promoting economic development, redevelopment, community development, empowerment, business development, or whatever you want to call it. How would you say this vast cast of characters has been doing? My thoughts exactly!

Oh, I almost forgot to mention the legislative branch of our government. While they may not have initiated any or all of these fiascos, they most certainly DID have the power to stop each and every one of them. But did they? Of course not! Have we ever heard a word out of them? (Chuck Hughes and Alex Cherry spoke out against the Baseball Stadium vociferously and repeatedly.) But besides that, mum has always been the word.

Any one of these individuals could have spoken up. But they were never willing to swim upstream. None have ever had the spine to stand their ground. They all eventually bent to the pressure. They all fell in line.

What more evidence do you need?

We have been paying for this Department of Redevelopment for many, many years. Take a drive around the city. How much redevelopment do you see? But while you're at it, take note of the destruction. This department can take most of the credit for this. It has been their unwritten mission statement. They have fulfilled this mission. The scant few "success stories" they feel no shame in taking credit for, have come at such a price, that they should instead be quite ashamed of themselves for these as well.

They were involved in bringing an 20-million dollar baseball stadium to the city at a price of 56 million and counting. They oversaw and bragged about the County Market project. Because of this, we have a vacant grocery store that cost 14 million, where it would have been built for half of that anywhere else--and still be in business!

Can you imagine that Joel Rodriguez, the mayor's pal and all-around gofer in charge of economic development, had the brass to tout a new Walgreen's as economic development? Did he also mention to the DUAB that Walgreen's will be closing their other store as soon as this one opens? I don't think you could stop Walgreens from building in the city no matter how hard you'd try! But he's taking bows for this!

There is not one--not one project that any of these departments have been involved with that could be counted as a success. Every single one, EVERY SINGLE ONE, has been done at a loss. But it's our money! They lose OUR MONEY every chance they get. And why? Because we let them get away with it! We let them off easy every single time.

If any of us made "good" deals like all of these "experts" we've been paying all these years have been making--ostensibly on our behalf--we'd all be bumping into each other down at the bankruptcy court. But in the backwards, bizarro world that is "Gary business", they put these guys and gals on the covers of magazines. I refer to this month's self-aggrandizing issue of the BIZE publication. This little rag is published for and distributed by the Gary/East Chicago/Hammond Empowerment Zone. Its sole purpose appears to be blowing their own horn about whatever particular black hole they are currently pouring our tax dollars down. Luckily they are federally funded, but last time I checked, I was still sending money to the IRS. I'm quite sure you are also. Without the slightest bit of shame, the latest issue of the BIZE magazine features the director, Scott Upshaw, standing proud as a peacock in front of the new Dustie's Buffet. This is the new restaurant on 5th Ave. that the Empowerment Zone just (Finally! Years behind schedule and millions over budget) got done building. You might recognize it as the very average-looking building with the way above average price tag. They dumped 7 million into this project. It could be built for less than 3 million anywhere else. It will lose money from now till eternity. If it lasts another year I'd be shocked.

And how about the Dalton Arms project? Bill Harrington, the darling of the King administration, has been piddling around with this debacle for over ten years. Over ten years! And don't even get me started on his Connecticut St. condos--he got 3 million bucks and the key to the city from Scott King. If you go nowhere else in the city, you must take a drive down the 500 block of Connecticut. All of this happened under the watchful eyes of the Department of Redevelopment. And where's Harrington now? He's back! He thinks things have cooled down sufficiently. It's time for him to force his snout back in the feeding trough.

In any other city, these smalltime projects go up as a matter of course. They don't make headlines. They don't merit ribbon-cutting ceremonies. They don't warrant press conferences and media events. But here in Gary, the accomplishments of all of these departments, working in concert, are so meager that they have to capitalize on even the very smallest of achievements. It's not bad enough that we've had to pay in blood for this stuff, but then we have to be reminded of how much of our hard-earned money has been squandered on these idiotic projects--these white elephants--over and over and over again.

Turn up the heat!

Demand accountability. Demand results. After 40 years of service, shouldn't we be seeing some noticeable redevelopment by now? How many more decades until they actually attract some real redevelopment? Once they get the heck out of the way, once they stop running interference, it could begin anytime. It would likely begin immediately! Cutting this department's budget isn't enough, though. It should be eliminated entirely!

Guilty conscience?

Not a chance! They opted out of the Distressed Unit Appeal process to cover their tracks. It will surely pain this useless department to reel in their budget. But it won't be nearly as painful as the alternative!

False Profits

Rudy and his gang can beg, plead, and pray to whoever they care to. I on the other hand am placing my faith in Gov. Mitch Daniels, Ryan Kitchell, and the other esteemed members of the Distressed Unit Appeals Board. Governor Daniels used to run the Office of Management and Budget for the United States. He was in charge of developing the budget for the entire nation. Before that he was senior vice-president in charge of corporate strategy for Eli Lilly. I don't think wading through the morass of Gary's budget will present him much of a challenge. Governor Daniels hand picked the members of the Distressed Unit Appeals Board. How do you think that the "geniuses" that have taken our city over the edge and smack-dab in the middle of insolvency, are going to hold up to their (DUAB's) scrutiny. If I were them, I'd be heading for the hills! Greece, Costa Rica, Guatemala; I'd be buying a one-way ticket and a Berlitz language course.

But Clay is so clueless, he really doesn't understand much of this. He will surely rely on the, "I had no idea" defense. "I didn't know what was going on." (This will be as close to the truth as we'll ever hear out of him.) Good luck with that Rudy!

All that has to happen for this area and this city to realize unbridled prosperity is get these goofballs--that have been destroying our city for years--out of the way. DUAB members; our city's fate and the fate of the region is in your hands. We trust that you will do the right thing! Don't just turn them down cold. Turn their world inside out and upside down! And give us ours back in the process. Set ours back right again!

Change? Yes we must!

It's time for a sea change. This ship is sinking fast. She is nose up and taking on water heavily. Let her sink. Let her go to the bottom where she belongs. Life rafts and all. But in the wake and turbulence left behind, we can build a new sleek craft to guide us into the waters of the future.

The old ship was built for another time, for another world. Neither exist anymore. We need one that is able to navigate the new routes. These new lanes require a more efficient and maneuverable design. There is just no way to convert the old ship to service in the new theater.

Sink the old, christen the new!