

## **Russo, Stephanie**

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**From:** Darryl M. Harris Sr. [knowledgebase38@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 27, 2009 2:03 PM  
**To:** 'nglenn'; Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** RE: Board Stiffs

Hello to all,

I am Darryl Harris Chairman of the Gary Obama Organizing Collaborative. I invite you to attend our meeting January 31, 2009, at McBride Hall.

You have the right perception of what is and will be continued if we do not organize at the grassroots like our president has asked us to do. Pass this information on to all your friends and family lets get ready to rumble.

I will provide to the Collaborative Obama's Urban and Rural Economic Agenda and attempt to make the connections to his Stimulus Plan, and guide the group toward taking 'Direct Actions' on local and state entities whom are expected receive our Stimulus Funding. Also we will be structuring, establishing a Steering Committee, Coordinators, Focus Groups and taking care of any old business the group deems necessary.

McBride is at 1301 Texas St. off of 15th Ave. You can get there by taking 15th Ave. off I-65 just one block west of 65, turn onto Texas St. going north and the hall is at the end of the street. The USW District office is on the 2nd floor.

We give much appreciation to Robin Rich  
For making the arrangements for this meeting.

*Darryl Harris – POC/chairman  
Northwest Indiana/Gary Grassroots Organizing Collaborative  
In Gary's Historical Midtown  
2034 Maryland St.  
Gary Indiana, 46407  
Office: 219-886-2103  
Mobile: 219-314-3494  
[www.socialjustice1118.blogspot.com](http://www.socialjustice1118.blogspot.com)*

## **NWI/Gary Speaks! One Voice One Nation**

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**From:** nglenn [mailto:nglenn@netnitco.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 27, 2009 3:53 AM  
**To:** srusso@sba.in.gov  
**Subject:** Fw: Board Stiffs

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

**From:** Beach46403@aol.com  
**To:** nglenn@netnitco.net  
**Sent:** Monday, January 26, 2009 5:55 PM  
**Subject:** Board Stiffs

In the real world, most people that sit on boards that ostensibly serve the public good, do so because they feel they have something to offer. Sometimes they have special expertise or experience in a related field. They may be retired from a like industry and are eager to see their knowledge put to good use. And of course there are always individuals anywhere that may use their position in an attempt to enrich themselves in some way. However, I would have to say that in most places, thankfully, this is the exception to the norm.

In Gary, though, to qualify for a position on one of the various boards in the city, you evidently have to take an oath that you won't ever try to do anything. Never ever ever. I think that even if you are in a coma, you may still qualify, just as long as you are able to keep your eyes open for at least part of the meeting. Basic cognitive functions are apparently not necessary. Certainly no experience whatsoever in the field that your particular board oversees is required.

But then we have Gary. I sure can't let the opportunity pass by to spotlight these seat fillers at the Gary Sanitary District. Not a clue any of them. Not one original thought in their heads. Not any technical expertise in the lot. They simply have absolutely nothing to offer. But of course they were never there to offer anything. We all know that! They were only there to take something away. And that's all they ever did...take, take, take. Like every other government unit in or around Gary, they've taken everything. They've taken so much and never made any attempt to put anything back that everything is suddenly, finally collapsing. It's too late to stop it now. All we can do now is get a fresh start. But for that opportunity we are very lucky. Where else could we have this opportunity--for a city a half hour from the loop to get a fresh start? Nowhere. It's impossible anywhere else.

And just what was the mayor offering for his the fattest paycheck of all? Same as the rest. Nothing. But he evidently didn't even take the time to go to any meetings and keep a seat warm. I guess that he thought everything was running so smoothly that he needn't focus any of his attention over there. Yeah...so smoothly that they recently had this multi-jurisdictional raid over there just for practice. And on what grounds did he thumb his nose at the federal authorities that requested--no demanded--his resignation? On the grounds that he has never been to a board meeting? On the grounds that he was only at the facility twice in two-and-a-half years? Huh?

These shining stars that have perfunctorily moped in and out of these bored(sic) meetings are there for the very reasons that I stated before; because there is no chance that they'll step out of line, because it is known that they will do exactly as they are told. There is no possibility that they'll be mavericks. They are guaranteed to follow the trail they are told to. And blindly follow they do. So besides these mannequins that presently occupy all of the board positions on not only this board, but every other board I can think of in the city--virtually guaranteeing that no substantive, positive change will ever take place--they also ensure that no one else, anyone with any expertise or experience or qualifications, will ever get a chance to serve on any board in the city. So it's not bad enough that neither any board members or its Special Administrator will ever accomplish anything, but their sheer existence and way of doing business guarantees that nobody else will ever get the chance to be enabled to be in a position to effect any positive change.

Change? Yeah, but how? Obviously, with no more than a cursory observation, one can determine that while these same individuals that just got done campaigning so stridently for change in Washington, likely did so expecting support to NOT have to change back here in Gary. It seems to me, that change in Gary is the last thing the locals want. If it's change they want, why do they instead go to such great lengths to make sure that change doesn't happen? Why have they stacked the deck so that change CAN'T happen?

Rudy Clay is a perfect example of this. He campaigned so tirelessly for "change", yet since the election, Clay has been working harder than ever to make sure things stay exactly the same.

In truth, change is the very last thing the Gary political establishment wants! "Hail the status quo"--"long live the status quo", these are Gary's unspoken mottos. These tenets drive all actions of boards and departments in the city. And they are obeyed with religious devotion.

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

## **Russo, Stephanie**

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**From:** by way of Jack Lund <londonjack@sbcglobal.net> [Beach46403@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 27, 2009 12:32 PM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** How to Cut Gary's Budget for Dummies

### **Beach Sez:**

#### **Attention all City of Gary Administrators;**

Month One:

To begin immediately;

Eliminate the Department of Redevelopment. Shift all duties related to any viable "work in progress" to the legal department. (This shouldn't pose much of a problem.)

Close the City Jail. For real, not just reassign jail workers to other make-work jobs. The jail itself doesn't eat, it's all the staff that costs us.

Eliminate the In-house Demolition Department.

Eliminate the Civil Defense Department.

Actively solicit buyers/lessees for the Airport, the Genesis Center, the Hudson-Campbell Center, Gleason Golf Course (operator to maintain and expand current golf operations)

Find operator to manage Lake St. Beach. Applicants would require the wherewithal to significantly increase activity at this facility.

Combine Park Maintenance with General Services.

Inventory all rolling stock and mobile equipment. Eliminate unneeded and nonfunctioning assets.

Eliminate the position of Chief of Staff.

Eliminate all City Council assistants. Maintain the best candidate to assist all council members.

Eliminate all mayoral security personnel and chauffeur.

Eliminate all major in-house vehicle maintenance. Keep a minimum amount of mechanics to perform only minor repairs and periodic maintenance.

Get all departments back in City Hall. Vacate 839 Broadway Annex building.

Eliminate the Planning Department. Consolidate any viable duties with the Building Department.

Get all vehicle support services and General Services under one roof.

Consolidate any grounds maintenance and park grounds maintenance into one unit.

Plow drivers should be drawn first from Park Maintenance employees. (just like in the private sector, landscapers become snow removal contractors in the winter)

Eliminate tow truck drivers. Sell all tow trucks.

Privatize the management of the Marquette Pavilion.

Consolidate all General Services/Motor Pool/Vehicle storage/Equipment storage to one site.

Consolidate Zoning with the Building Department. Eliminate one department head in the process.

Divest all unnecessary and unused/underused buildings and facilities.

Initiate a marketing program for all surplus real estate owned by the City.

Sell all surplus heavy equipment.

Contract with local private vendors to perform vehicle maintenance and repairs.

Outsource pool maintenance and OPEN the pools during the summer season.

Sell the old Coast Guard station at the end of Lake St. to the highest bidder. Relocate or eliminate Gary Artworks to allow for this. This is the city's most prime piece of real estate. It must be used for its highest and best use. Work with the Charter School of the Dunes to relocate their operation.

Eliminate the Board-Up Department.

Contract out Animal Control duties to local kennels or Humane Society. (except for actual pickup of animals)

Eliminate video technicians from City Council budget. Work with IUN and Ivy Tech to see if their Audio/Video department could assume these duties as part of a vocational training course.

Cancel the mayor's sons' videotaping contracts immediately!

Consolidate Labor Relations, Human Relations, Personnel, and Status of Women departments into one.

Consolidate Mayor's office support staff with Division of City Operations and reduce staff accordingly.

Consolidate the Environmental Affairs Department with Public Works/Engineering.

Eliminate Division of Community Services.

Eliminate Department of Public Information. Transfer these duties to the Mayor's Office.

Eliminate MIS/Information Resource Department. Shift any viable functions to Mayor's Office.

Insist on an across-the-board budget reduction from the General Services Department, the Clerk's Office, City Court, and the Parks Department of at least 30%.

Embark on these budget-cutting measures immediately. Next month look to reduce General Services, Parks, City Court, and Clerk's Office budgets more significantly.

**Step One; You must first decide that you are willing to cut the budget. Then the rest is easy. Like a walk in one of our overgrown, unmaintained, and neglected parks. Or like a day at the underused, unmaintained, and mismanaged beach.**

**Step Two; Do it!**

## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** nglenn [nglenn@netnitco.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 27, 2009 4:53 AM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Fw: Board Stiffs

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**To:** nglenn@netnitco.net  
**Sent:** Monday, January 26, 2009 5:55 PM  
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**From:** by way of Jack Lund <londonjack@sbcglobal.net> [Beach46403@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 26, 2009 8:01 PM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Board Stiffs (in Gary)

### *Beach Sez:*

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## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** Bryan Ford [bsccford@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 26, 2009 5:56 PM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Gary tax cap

I strongly **oppose** the tax cap being raised for Gary, Indiana. The tax cap is a fair way to tax properties. It is an ingenious idea.

1. Everyone else can comply with the tax cap, Gary should not be any different. That should be a red flag that Gary, Indiana needs help with their spending plan.
2. Why is Gary an exception for the tax cap? The steel companies pay millions of tax dollars alone. Not to mention the River Boat Casinos and other factories. Which is so much more than other cities take in. They are already getting MORE money.
3. By their track record, they make poor spending decisions. i.e.: A part-time city photographer that makes \$60,000 annually.
4. People who don't know how to live within their means (a budget) always think that a little bit more money would help me. Just a little more, just a little more, but a little more is never enough. Just as the mayor needs just over 2% more.

To support this statement: There are several lottery winners that are broke within a few years. Also, a true story in the book 5 Lessons a Millionaire Taught Me there was a man who won an insurance settlement of 3 million dollars and within 3 years he was broke.

5. The tax cap legislation just exposes the cities who are financially enslaved and have poor judgement on spending.
6. The City of Chicago had a plan to move out all people out of a project of high-rises and transport them into the suburbs in attempt to get rid of crime. Leaving the buildings abandoned only increased crime and increased crime in the suburbs. They tried to get rid of the problem instead of deal with the problem. The same would happen to Gary. Many businesses said they would close; therefore leaving abandoned stores and places of business also resulting in less tax revenues and increased crime.
7. Where does the money go? Gary does not provide service. A. Gary does not plow the streets. B. You are only allowed 1 large garbage can. C. When your house is robbed the police do not come out. You have to go to the police station and PAY for a report.
8. When you are one of the only cities with a STRONG problem with a tax cap and fighting it every step of the way. Gary should see that the problem is not the tax cap, but Gary. Taxpayers should not be the ones to take over for City Government's irresponsibility.

### PROPOSITIONS TO HELP SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF FINANCIAL DISTRESS:

1. The Mayor should take responsibility for the financial situation he is in.
2. Instead of giving Gary more money, they should give them help, instruction, and guidance. Gary has known about this Legislative Bill for almost a year and has another year to get their spending under control.
3. 6 Cities should be selected who have a proven record of financial resposibility and counsel Gary for a few years. They didn't get in their predicament overnight. Gary may need years of help sticking to a spending plan.

Owner of property in Gary, Stephenie Ford



## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** nglenn [nglenn@netnitco.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 25, 2009 10:53 AM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Fw: When City Government Goes Wrong! (New reality TV pilot)

well written

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

**From:** Beach46403@aol.com  
**To:** nglenn@netnitco.net  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 25, 2009 6:45 AM  
**Subject:** When City Government Goes Wrong! (New reality TV pilot)

What has happened to the government of the City of Gary, could not be anymore of a textbook case of how bad things could possibly get in municipal government in America.

I was watching the news coverage of the US Airways plane crash in the Hudson River last week. I was awestruck and proud to watch the fearless and immediate response to this emergency. We saw the selfless rescue efforts of the public and private sectors, working in tandem, which added up to the perfect formula which saved everyone. What a wonderful story of heroism!

Then I think of what would happen if some kind of natural, or unnatural disaster like this were to take place in Gary. I think of the response that our flatfooted city would be able to muster. Then I think of how differently things would likely turn out. I am simply disgusted as I run this scenario through my mind.

Am I wrongly assuming that the City of Gary would fail miserably in the face of a major disaster? I don't think so. Do you remember the Glen Park disaster? The tornado that toppled thousands of trees? Well, if you don't, I am sure that the residents of Glen Park do. Not only because it was such a traumatic event, but also because they are constantly reminded because the City still hasn't cleaned up much of the debris left in the storm's wake.

When people live in a city, they do so because they expect to receive a certain level of services, typically much more than are available in the suburbs or rural areas. If people didn't want and need these extra services, they'd be far better off living in the outlying areas, as they would not have the safety concerns they face living in Gary. When one opts to live in a city, they are doing so making some sacrifices. It will be more congested. They may not have as much open space as they could find in the suburbs. But they generally make this choice and are willing to make these sacrifices in exchange for the needed services they expect to be provided by a city. But in Gary, it seems that we have to take the bad with the bad. We have made the sacrifices, but we receive none of the anticipated extras which led us to the choice of living in the city.

Just hope that nothing bad happens in Gary, as the City would be running around in circles chasing their tail. It would be like a Chinese fire drill. Nothing would get done. But we would surely have to listen to the administration telling us what a magnificent job they were all doing. The failed response by the City of Gary would be a disaster which those affected would have to suffer through all over again.

They can't even work their way through a nine-inch snow. What will they do when something bad happens? Stay tuned, we're sure to find out! The show's writers wouldn't need to work very hard as the Clay administration is a virtual grist mill for material! It would have to be on every night to keep up!

---

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## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** by way of Jack Lund <londonjack@sbcglobal.net> [Beach46403@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 25, 2009 1:06 PM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Cc:** jdavich@post-trib.com; Jon Seidel; James, Rich; glaasby@post-trib.com  
**Subject:** When City Government Goes Wrong! (New reality TV pilot)

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**From:** by way of Jack Lund <londonjack@sbcglobal.net> [Beach46403@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 24, 2009 6:51 PM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** What gives them the right not to plow the streets?

### *Beach Sez:*

I had occasion to drive around the rest of Gary yesterday. Only the main streets are clear. None of the side streets have been plowed. And I can't tell for sure if the main streets, which are somewhat cleared, have actually been plowed or if it is just from all of the traffic. It's one thing to not plow the side streets immediately during a big storm, but once the snow stops, you usually have no problem catching up. The plowing strategy becomes sort of like triage, you do the most serious areas first, then you continue with the secondary areas, etc. But you don't quit until it's all done. You don't have the option of just taking care of the main drags and then go park the trucks and go home. You plow and plow and plow until all of the streets are clear.

Now I know all about the salt shortage, so I can understand why the City wants to conserve their depleted reserves--all cities are cutting back on salting--but there is no shortage of diesel fuel, and by the looks of the payroll, there most certainly is no shortage of hired help, so what seems to be the problem? The snow stopped days ago. But the trucks stopped working days ago also. But they are not done--not even close to being done. All they did was the absolute bare minimum. But we did not pay for the bare minimum, we paid for the full monty. Cheated again!

So what enables the City to get away with not plowing the streets adequately? You! Everybody seems to be happy enough that they don't say anything about it. This is not acceptable by any standards. If we weren't paying for an enormously bloated payroll, especially in the General Services/Parks Department/Streets and Sanitation departments, it would be one thing, but there are hundreds of city employees on the payroll that should be able to be marshaled to do this job. They aren't doing anything else anyway.

Oh, here's a good one; the City has a Board-up department. They have at least one truck that is lettered "Board-up Department". But don't worry, they weren't doing any board-up today. Just a couple of city workers out driving around, stopping by some friend's house. No boards in the back of the truck. Parked in front of an occupied apartment building that was not in need of any board-up.

People should be ringing their phones off the wall. You should be calling your council people. Miller has four. (three at-large plus Ms. Krusas) Don't let them get away with it. Here is the cellular number for the head of General Services; 219-746-7390. Let him know what you think! We paid for the entire job, don't let them off with only doing a small portion of it.

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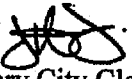


LYLES & HARRIS, P.C.  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

MEMORANDUM

TO: Distressed Unit Appeals Board

CC: Hon. Suzette Raggs  
Gary City Clerk

FROM: Jewell Harris, Jr.   
Attorney to the Gary City Clerk's Office

DATE: January 23, 2009

RE: City of Gary's Petition to the DUAB

Please be advised that I am writing to you as the attorney to the Gary City Clerk, Suzette Raggs. On December 2, 2008, the Gary Common Council adopted a Resolution entitled "*A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Gary Approving the Petition to the Distress Unit Appeals Board for Relief from the Circuit Breaker Credit for Calendar Year 2009*". The Resolution was presented to the Common Council and the public on December 2, 2009 without a written copy of the petition and financial plan. This fact should be of particular concern to the DUAB considering the fact that **the public was never afforded an opportunity to review and comment on the petition package prior to the Council's adoption of the Resolution.** Moreover, because the Petition and Financial Plan was not attached to the Resolution, there is significant concern as to whether the Council itself was afforded the opportunity to review the plan prior to taking official action. These facts suggest that the process of petitioning the DUAB may have been compromised and warrant the DUAB taking action.

Particularly, it is our suggestion that the DUAB encourage and/or require the City of Gary to resubmit the Petition to the Gary Common Council where the matter can be set for appropriate public hearing and comment. This will proactively address any criticism of the public's inability to participate in the passage of legislation which is so critical to the community. Moreover, this will also provide the City of Gary with an opportunity to correct any errors which may have been made in its original petition.

Should you wish to discuss these matters any further, please do not hesitate to contact myself or the Clerk.

## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** andrea basarich [abasarich@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 25, 2009 12:54 AM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Fw: What gives the City the right to not plow our streets?

--- On Sat, 1/24/09, nglenn <[nglenn@netnitco.net](mailto:nglenn@netnitco.net)> wrote:

**From:** nglenn <[nglenn@netnitco.net](mailto:nglenn@netnitco.net)>  
**Subject:** Fw: What gives the City the right to not plow our streets?  
**To:** Undisclosed-Recipient@yahoo.com  
**Date:** Saturday, January 24, 2009, 11:37 PM

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

**From:** Beach46403@aol.com  
**To:** [nglenn@netnitco.net](mailto:nglenn@netnitco.net)  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 24, 2009 8:00 PM  
**Subject:** What gives the City the right to not plow our streets?

I had occasion to drive around the rest of Gary yesterday. Only the main streets are clear. None of the side streets have been plowed. And I can't tell for sure if the main streets, which are somewhat cleared, have actually been plowed or if it is just from all of the traffic. It's one thing to not plow the side streets immediately during a big storm, but once the snow stops, you usually have no problem catching up. The plowing strategy becomes sort of like triage, you do the most serious areas first, then you continue with the secondary areas, etc. But you don't quit until it's all done. You don't have the option of just taking care of the main drags and then go park the trucks and go home. You plow and plow and plow until all of the streets are clear.

Now I know all about the salt shortage, so I can understand why the City wants to conserve their depleted reserves--all cities are cutting back on salting--but there is no shortage of diesel fuel, and by the looks of the payroll, there most certainly is no shortage of hired help, so what seems to be the problem? The snow stopped days ago. But the trucks stopped working days ago also. But they are not done--not even close to being done. All they did was the absolute bare minimum. But we did not pay for the bare minimum, we paid for the full monty. Cheated again!

So what enables the City to get away with not plowing the streets adequately? You! Everybody seems to be happy enough that they don't say anything about it. This is not acceptable by any standards. If we weren't paying for an enormously bloated payroll, especially in the General Services/Parks Department/Streets and Sanitation departments, it would be one thing, but there are hundreds of city employees on the payroll that should be able to be marshaled to do this job. They aren't doing anything else anyway.

Oh, here's a good one; the City has a Board-up department. They have at least one truck that is lettered "Board-up Department". But don't worry, they weren't doing any board-up today. Just a couple of city workers out driving around, stopping by some friend's house. No boards in the back of the truck. Parked in front of an occupied apartment building that was not in need of any board-up.

People should be ringing their phones off the wall. You should be calling your council people. Miller has four. (three at-large plus Ms. Krusas) Don't let them get away with it. Here is the cellular number for the head of General Services; 219-746-7390. Let him know what you think! We paid for the entire job, don't let them off with only doing a small portion of it.

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## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** andrea basarich [abasarich@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 23, 2009 8:28 AM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Fw: water main break 8400-8500 Lake Shore Drive

--- On Fri, 1/23/09, nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net> wrote:  
From: nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net>  
Subject: Fw: water main break 8400-8500 Lake Shore Drive  
To: Undisclosed-Recipient@yahoo.com  
Date: Friday, January 23, 2009, 2:11 AM

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

**From:** Darnail Lyles  
**To:** [mdkrusas@aol.com](mailto:mdkrusas@aol.com)  
**Cc:** 'nglenn'  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 22, 2009 8:46 AM  
**Subject:** water main break 8400-8500 Lake Shore Drive

January 22, 2009

Councilwoman Krusas:

You are aware that water ponds in the 8500 block of LSD. This has been an ongoing problem and a nuisance for over a decade. Our complaints over the years have fallen on deaf ears. But the City keeps jamming us for the high taxes.

On January 20, 2009 a water main broke just west of the area in question. It sent water down to the low spot. Now with the great amount of snow and ice the pond prevents vehicular and pedestrian traffic from Shelby to Sullivan. Because of the icy pond I cannot get my mail or put my garbage can out. The garbage can is frozen in eight inches of water. On Monday Mrs. Dilts required my help, Mr. Dilts, Farag and Bill's help to get through the pond. For a moment I thought she would be stranded in over a foot of icy water.

The next day, I guess the paper man got stuck trying to go around the pond. He used eight newspapers to get traction. He left those newspapers right where he used them-in my driveway. Since Monday I have watched countless people have difficulty navigating this safety hazard. Drivers and pedestrians misjudge the depth of the water or think that it is solid ice. There is no warning of this hazardous condition.

I already have water/ice in my west garages ( the doors are frozen to the ground; I cannot get out of them ) and I am concerned that my vehicles will be sitting in water if the weather warms up given the existing water/ice in the pond plus

the great amount of snow waiting to melt.

What can be done about this and when. Please contact me as soon as you can. I have had my fill dealing with this.

Darnail Lyles, Esq.

LYLES & HARRIS, P.C.

Attorneys At Law

5528 Melton Road

Miller Beach

Gary, Indiana 46403

(219) 939-9529

(219) 939-8863 Fax

[dl@darnaillyles.com](mailto:dl@darnaillyles.com)

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# Indiana Chamber

**The Voice of  
Indiana Business.®**

Kevin M. Brinegar  
President

Mr. Ryan Kitchell  
Chairman  
Distressed Unit Appeals Board  
HAND DELIVERED

January 15, 2009

RE: Petitions of Gary Corporation, Gary Airport District, Gary Public Transit District and Gary Sanitary District ("Petitioners")

Dear Mr. Kitchell:

*RYAN,*

This letter is to express our concerns regarding the above petitions and opposition to the proposal of the Petitioners presented at your January 5, 2009 hearing. We have members located within the petitioning political subdivisions. However, our concerns are not limited to the effect that granting the Petitioners' requests would have on the businesses and citizens of Gary.

We believe the Petitioners' proposed plan would not only prove detrimental to the prosperity of Gary, but is so ill-founded that, if embraced by the Distressed Unit Appeals Board ("DUAB"), the practice would likely be adopted by numerous other entities in future DUAB proceedings. Future petitioners would reasonably expect that their situation would be rectified in a consistent manner. The DUAB's decision on these petitions could establish a precedent and promote a practice that would only further undermine and threaten the economic stability of troubled localities across the state.

The flawed, fundamental premise of Gary's proposal is that the burden and consequences of Gary's financial mismanagement should, by some misguided logic, be borne solely by commercial and industrial property owners. The business community fully appreciates the struggles homeowners have faced in having to pay continually escalating property taxes, because they likewise struggle with tax bills, especially during these difficult times.

The irony in the proposed remedy is that the caps triggering these proceedings are already three times higher for business property. If the policy of this state, as established by the legislature, is the treat taxpayers according to a structured disparity – i.e. the 1%, 2% and 3% cap differentials – it seems that the DUAB should feel some obligation to maintain that same degree of disparity. In other words, if in your discretion you conclude that some level of relief is warranted, and the mechanism for granting relief is to adjust the caps – then all the statutorily determined caps should be raised by equal percentages. But



please note that our strong preference would be for the DUAB to fashion a remedy that does not involve lifting the caps.


There are no simple solutions, but neither is there any plausible justification for not asking all affected parties to share in the consequences of whatever solution is ultimately formulated. Distressed homeowners are in the best position to hold elected officials responsible for the fiscal practices that have led to their distressed units. To disengage homeowners only makes the prospects for needed reform less attainable. Our hope is that the DUAB's actions will encourage greater responsibility, not more appeals.

A couple of additional observations: The plan proposes relatively small spending cuts for 2009 through 2011. And the larger property tax levy reductions proposed for 2012 can only be realized if the county adopts a local option income tax; given the history on this subject, it would be imprudent to depend of such an assumption.

Finally, perhaps the DUAB procedures could be amended to require petitioners to make their proposal public prior to the hearing presentation. This would enhance the ability for affected parties to evaluate the plan and offer more meaningful responses at the time of the hearing.

We have been in communication with each of the below named organizations and they have endorsed this letter. Collectively, we thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Indiana Chamber of Commerce  
Kevin M. Brinegar, President

And also on behalf of:

Indiana Manufacturers Association  
Indiana Retail Council  
National Federation of Independent Businesses

Copy to: Christopher D. Atkins, Counsel to the DUAB

## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** nglenn [nglenn@netnitco.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 21, 2009 7:42 PM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Fw: Measures of desperation

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

**From:** Beach46403@aol.com  
**To:** nglenn@netnitco.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 21, 2009 8:06 AM  
**Subject:** Measures of desperation

Unbeknownst to anyone that didn't attend or watch last night's City Council meeting, the administration, was able to rush through an ordinance on all three readings which will enable the City to borrow money on which to continue operating from the Indiana Bond Bank(IBB). They were forced to go to the IBB because local banks needed more information than the City had been able to provide them.

So this ordinance, which most definitely should have been given the chance to be publicly advertised, and aired at a Finance Committee hearing, instead got rammed through the legislative branch of our local government. This type of action begs the question of; Why do we bother even having a legislative branch? If they instead of protecting their respective districts' constituents, simply serve at the will of the administration; Who needs them? Evidently, we need them so that when the administration screws us, they make it official.

And where in the heck are all these budget cuts that Emperor Clay has been boasting about? Based on paperwork submitted along with this ordinance, the budget is still \$69,000,000.00. That's the highest on record! The proof that he is lying--and hasn't cut the budget by even one penny--is now available for all to see. It is in the public record of last night's council meeting.

Hopefully the IBB will reject their application also as did the local banks. Clay just won't listen. He refuses to listen. He refuses to act.

The City needs to operate within the means which are available. It is not up to the taxpayers to provide the means to enable the City to operate inefficiently and wastefully. And it is certainly not up to the taxpayers to enable whatever administration to create and feed an inert and incompetent patronage army.

---

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## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** andrea basarich [abasarich@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 22, 2009 8:45 AM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Gary Visit

I would like to thank the board for coming to Gary, but why did they not go East of I65 to see more of the blight that this city is under? I am all for the Board controlling the spending that the Mayor does.

## Russo, Stephanie

---

**From:** Ted Prettyman [mcctedp@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 21, 2009 4:01 PM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Cc:** Tom Eaton; George Rogge; Douglas Grimes; Gene Ayers; Wendy Prettyman; Marilyn Krusas  
**Subject:** Fw: Gary City Budget

Ms. Russo:

I thought it advisable to forward this information to the Distressed Unit Appeal Board, in the event you've not already received it.

It speaks for itself.

With respect,

Ted Prettyman  
Gary, Indiana

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** "mceaton@aol.com" <mceaton@aol.com>  
**To:** d2ogg1@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 21, 2009 2:46:02 PM  
**Subject:** Gary City Budget

I think the \$69 million number needs to get to the DUAB, if they haven't already noticed.

Tom

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

**From:** [Beach46403@aol.com](mailto:Beach46403@aol.com)  
**To:** [nglenn@netnitco.net](mailto:nglenn@netnitco.net)  
**Sent:** Wed, 21 Jan 2009 12:06 pm  
**Subject:** Measures of desperation

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## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** Jack Lund [londonjack@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 21, 2009 11:07 AM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Measures of desperation: Indiana Bond Bank Loan to Gary

*Great timing - the eve of DUAB's visit to Gary - is that significant?*

Unbeknownst to anyone that didn't attend or watch last night's City Council meeting, the administration, was able to rush through an ordinance on all three readings which will enable the City to borrow money on which to continue operating from the Indiana Bond Bank (IBB). They were forced to go to the IBB because local banks needed more information than the City had been able to provide them.

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## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** drmessana@compcareonline.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 21, 2009 11:55 AM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Gary Tax Cap

Dear Ms. Russo

I am aware that Gary Mayor Rudy Clay and the City Council are petitioning the Distressed Unit Appeals Board headed by Chairman Ryan Kitchell for an exemption from new statewide property tax caps. I am writing to ever so strongly urge you to not lift those exemptions. As a business owner in Gary my tax rate is already so high that I must consider moving my business from this city and even this state. The thought of it rising even more may very well force me to do so. I am a small business owner and employ 30 people from Northwest Indiana and especially Gary. Mayor Clay has never exhibited any financial constraint and around here his leadership is considered almost laughable. Recently he purchased a new \$30,000.00 Hummer vehicle and was indignant about it when questioned. The history of corruption around him is a constant target of the FBI and under his leadership this City has suffered greatly. His tax exemption is just the latest in his anti-business policies. Don't we want to encourage business development as a means of increasing employment in this distressed economy? Please, we voters and business owners urge you to take a stand against this irresponsible tyrant. We will be watching his and your decisions closely.

Sincerely,

Frank Messana, DO,CIME  
Comprehensive Care  
[www.compcareonline.com](http://www.compcareonline.com)

## Russo, Stephanie

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**From:** andrea basarich [abasarich@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 21, 2009 11:59 AM  
**To:** Russo, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Fw: Measures of desperation

--- On Wed, 1/21/09, [Beach46403@aol.com](mailto:Beach46403@aol.com) <[Beach46403@aol.com](mailto:Beach46403@aol.com)> wrote:

From: [Beach46403@aol.com](mailto:Beach46403@aol.com) <[Beach46403@aol.com](mailto:Beach46403@aol.com)>

Subject: Measures of desperation

To: [n Glenn@netnitco.net](mailto:n Glenn@netnitco.net)

Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2009, 9:06 AM

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