

Russo, Stephanie

From: Rosemary Lopiano [rlopiano@jorsm.com]
To: Russo, Stephanie
Cc:
Subject: Distressed Unit Appeals Board
Attachments:

Sent: Mon 12/22/2008 1:35 AM

Dear Ms. Russo:

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the City of Gary's appeal to the Distressed Unit Appeals Board.

The pattern in our city government has been one of corruption, nepotism, and bad choices. If the Distressed Unit Appeals Board approves the city's appeal it will only be contributing to the state of affairs which all too often rewards political supporters with unnecessary jobs and no bid contracts. These employees and contracts produce substandard work which make living in the city costly and difficult. In most cases we can not count on those in city government to do their jobs. I have given up calling the city asking about services; helping citizens is not part of the mentality of our city government. Giving more tax money to the city will not help us. It will only perpetuate a situation that needs to change.

Hard choices need to be made. There are only 10,000 students in our schools; down from a high of 40,000. Underutilized schools need to be closed, but political pressure keeps them open.

From house I see the street down which one of our municipal buses lines runs. I have never seen a full bus. At most I see four passengers; I often see buses with no passengers. I could give many more examples of the profound waste of tax money in Gary.

Property taxes on the land under my house went up 390% in 2007; I now pay \$8500 just for that land. That does not include the taxes on my house.

We in Gary are paying more than enough taxes and we hope that you support our effort to make the city live within its means.

Thank you,

Rosemary Lopiano

Russo, Stephanie

From: andrea basarich [abasarich@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Mon 12/22/2008 8:40 AM

To: Russo, Stephanie

Cc:

Subject: Gary Indiana

Attachments:

I truly hope that you are reading all the emails that are coming to you. We are in a sad state up here but the only way to help us is to not help us until Rudy Clay steps down. He will not be happy until his pockets are overflowing with ill gotten gains. Thank you for your attention Andrea A. Basarich

Russo, Stephanie

From: Iris Louderman [ilouderman@thecarlton.net]

Sent: Mon 12/22/2008 9:50 AM.

To: Russo, Stephanie

Cc:

Subject: tax cap

Attachments:

Please do not allow the tax cap to be changed. The taxes are too high as it is (and why are they increasing the values??) and presents a real hardship to home owners. The city of Gary is poorly managed and the taxpaying citizens should not be forced to support an inept city government.

Thank you.

Iris Cherisse Louderman

6146 E. 6th Pl.

Gary, IN 46403

Russo, Stephanie

From: james mcclendon [jlmnlm@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Mon 12/22/2008 11:56 PM

To: Russo, Stephanie

Cc:

Subject: Petition

Attachments:

Please think long and hard before seriously considering Gary's petition for more tax money. Our city government is not run efficiently, there has been little or no attempt to effectively downsize. We cannot layoff police and fireman while others do little or nothing yet retain their jobs.

Again please make any city and especially Gary accountable to the citizens/state before such requests are considered.

Thank you.

Noreen McClendon

Russo, Stephanie

From: pspassarelli@att.net [pspassarelli@att.net]

Sent: Tue 12/23/2008 11:02 AM

To: Russo, Stephanie

Cc:

Subject: Please, no new funds for Gary.

Attachments:

Dear Ms. Russo:

We are residents of Gary, IN and we are asking that you please do not give in to the city of Gary's request for additional funds. Gary will surely mismanage whatever you grant.

We have lived here for 38 years and mismanagement of this city has gotten worse every year.

The mayor has a chauffeured Hummer with bodyguards, acting as if he is the chief executive of a major viable city. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The city council has the same problem. The members have not gotten the message about money management. They take expensive trips and have other amenities as if they were running a "normal" city. All this is business as usual here in Gary.

For the property tax payers, it is a different story, especially those of us on a fixed income. We are already paying higher property taxes and cannot afford mismanagement as usual by the city of Gary. Please do not grant any additional funds this year because next year they will be back at your doorstep begging for additional funds. They need to become aware of the making and using of a budget within their means.

Sincerely,
Peter and Phyllis Passarelli

Russo, Stephanie

From: andrea basarich [abasarich@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, December 29, 2008 5:32 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Fw: Pabey

How true this is. I lived at 8506 Locust for many years with my parents and the house in question was at one time owned by Bill and Annette Sarpos. Mr. Sarpos passed away some time ago but at one time Ennis Moore Realty had the listing for this house. He is lying.

--- On Mon, 12/29/08, nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net> wrote:

From: nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net>
Subject: Fw: Pabey
To: Undisclosed-Recipient@yahoo.com
Date: Monday, December 29, 2008, 1:58 AM

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

To: nglenn@netnitco.net
Sent: Saturday, December 27, 2008 2:17 PM
Subject: Pabey

The city knew all about King Georges place in Miller. It was supposed to be a secret. Even his wife didnt know about it. The electrical inspector for the city lives across the alley. Everybody was just following orders.

Russo, Stephanie

From: andrea basarich [abasarich@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, December 29, 2008 5:26 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Fw: King George's in the hood.

--- On Mon, 12/29/08, nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net> wrote:

From: nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net>
Subject: King George's in the hood.
To: Undisclosed-Recipient@yahoo.com
Date: Monday, December 29, 2008, 2:32 AM

Pabey says city did not do work

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[Comments](#)

December 25, 2008

By Andy Grimm and John Byrne
Post-Tribune staff writers

EAST CHICAGO -- Mayor George Pabey denied Wednesday that city employees were on the clock when they renovated a home he and his daughter own in Gary's Miller neighborhood.

The Post-Tribune on Wednesday reported that federal agents were investigating allegations that East Chicago workers -- while on city time -- performed work at a house owned by Pabey and his daughter in the **8500 block of**

Locust.

In a statement, Pabey said while some work was done by city employees -- as well as other contractors -- none of the work done by East Chicago employees was done during city work hours.

"Some of the work was done by employees who are friends" during off hours or weekends, city spokesman Damian Rico said Wednesday. "The mayor is not one to ask friends to -- to put someone in that position."

Rico declined to give the names of contractors or employees that worked at the house, which Pabey bought for \$67,000 in December 2007. Gary Building Department records do not show any permits for work at the Locust address after May 2003.

Any repair or renovation work worth more than \$300 requires a city permit and any contractor working in Gary must be licensed by the city.

Calling the article "an example of the lowest form of journalism," Pabey said the report incorrectly stated the Gary home receives a \$45,000 "homestead exemption" reduction on its assessed value for property tax purposes.

The article "insinuates that my daughter does not have the right to vote in East Chicago when in fact she does have the right because she lives in East Chicago," Pabey said in the statement.

Lake County property tax records show the property received a homestead exemption for the 2008 tax year, but that both the mayor's address and that of his daughter are listed on voter registration records as Pabey's longtime home in East Chicago. To receive such an exemption, a property's owner must reside there full-time.

"Neither the mayor or his daughter ever applied for a homestead exemption," Rico said.

Neighbors said Tuesday that there was a great deal of renovation at the house, including the installation of a new concrete driveway, and that Pabey stayed at the house regularly during the summer.

No one answered the door at the home Tuesday night and neighbors said they had seen no one at the house for weeks, if not months.

Rico declined to say whether anybody stays in the Locust Avenue house.

"The mayor is beyond frustrated right now," Rico said. "He has decided to let the statement stand on its own."

Contact Andy Grimm at 648-3073 or agrimm@post-trib.com. Comment on this story at www.post-trib.com

Russo, Stephanie

From: Serena N. Brown [snorbrown@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, December 29, 2008 12:02 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Article on Gary Indiana
Attachments: As a business owner in Gary.doc

I do not live in Miller, but I do live in Gary, IN. I live in Glen Park West. I, too, am appalled at the request of Mayor Clay for more money.

I have been voicing my opinion on various blogs that I have and commented on several articles as to my outrage of this Mayor's unscrupulous use of property taxes. In addition, to that I am equally appalled at the amount of taxes that I and all of the residents pay. We have the worst schools in Indiana and probably the country. In addition to that, we can not get trash picked up on trash day. The list of problems with this city goes on.

No, the fat is not cut Mr. Mayor when you are driving in a Hummer that I am sure that I pay for with my tax dollars. Fat, let's talk about paying your wife to sit on a board for the Genesis center or paying your son to take photos at town hall meeting. On by no means are you trim, Mr. Mayor.

Lastly, I would like to attach a letter that I wrote the Mayor about some of the very same things I mention here.

As a resident and business owner in Gary, I am very concerned about the rising property tax rate and its impact on my business and the residents of Gary. As a result of this concern, I attended the E3 conference held at the Northwest Indiana Forum in Portage, to learn more about the plight of the unusually high and unfair taxes that the residents of Gary are dealing with. I learned that we can not only help the residents of Gary combat the increasing property tax burden, but the city of Gary can benefit by incorporating a Sales Tax Increment Financing Addendum that will facilitate new economic growth in the stagnant areas of Gary. The Sales Tax Increment Financing Addendum is not without its flaws, but before I would recommend the incorporation of this tactic, the legislation of the Sales Tax Increment Financing Addendum must be changed to allow a city like Gary to benefit.

The other program that may benefit Gary is the Income Tax Financing Addendum. The problem with this program is at present it does not have any provisions for residents that are at or below the poverty level.

Even with all the information that was available at this conference if the individuals that are in the position to make the changes are not concerned then nothing will happen. Please remember that if the economic development of Gary is not quickly addressed, there will be no market in which to sell a home, and no city government needed. Please take into consideration the impending decline and plight of this city and take the necessary steps to improve the potential of this great city.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Russo, Stephanie

From: Pamela Vance [pamv0329@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, December 28, 2008 10:07 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Cc: Pamela Vance
Subject:

12-28-2008

Dear Ms. Stephanie Russo

Rudy Clay is using terrorist tactics on the citizens of Gary by threatening to cut police and firemen if he (and the city of Gary) doesn't receive relief funds through the Indiana Distressed Unit Appeals Board. Yet he continues to take his \$31,000.00 salary from the Gary Sanitary District where he shows up maybe twice a year. At a town hall meeting on 12-15-08 Rudy Clay was asked if he would forego his annual Gary Sanitary District salary. His reply was "...God is good." He drives around the city in a chauffeured Hummer. It costs the Gary taxpayers \$5,000.00 a year for the Hummer lease when he could be driving his own vehicle at his own expense. I saw him at a local restaurant lately surrounded by bodyguards, I assume paid for by the city budget. His son, Rudy Clay, Jr., is still on the payroll of the Gary Sanitary District to take pictures at a yearly salary of over \$51,000.00. I can't imagine what pictures he could take that any taxpayer would want to see. You can go to the police station for a police report and see all these office workers, eating, chatting to each other, or on the phone. You have to stand and wait to be waited on because they are busy doing their own thing at taxpayer expense. There is redundancy everywhere in this city particularly in useless departments and city workers. The City Council continues to donate hundreds of thousands of dollars to pet projects and charities. I am sure most Gary residents were unaware of this until a recent series of articles in the Post Tribune newspaper. I also assume that this is taxpayer money. Why does the City Council have or need a budget anyway. City judge Deidre Monroe and City clerk Suzette Raggs continue to fuel their vehicles with gas paid for by the taxpayers even after Clay's July 1, 2008 gas cutoff date. Gas was to be pumped only for police and fire vehicles. It costs taxpayers \$30,000.00 a month to fuel up city employee vehicles. Monroe and Raggs also refused to cut the pay of their employees by 20%.

Please see the article by Rich James in the Post Tribune dated 8-22-08. He says Gary has 1,300 people on the payroll (in a city of less than 100,000 residents). This figure includes 250 police officers and 280 firefighters. It all averages out to 1 (one) city worker for every 75 residents. If that isn't pork, I don't know what is.

I say "NO" to any distressed funds until it is proven without a doubt that Rudy and his cohorts have cut the dead wood to the bone without touching the police and fire fighting forces. This city is already a well-known killing field, so why would you even think of cutting the very ones who actually protect and help the Gary residents. It would be a grave injustice to the Gary taxpayers to give Gary any additional money so Rudy Clay and his cronies can continue their inept business as usual.

Respectfully submitted by

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

Russo, Stephanie

From: sammjoe2426@comcast.net
Sent: Sunday, December 28, 2008 7:17 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Gary Budget Woes

Gentlemen;

In the Sunday Post Tribune dated Dec. 28, 2008, there was an article titled, " NWI residents against state bailout for Gary", I agree.

I have been a resident of Gary for 20 years and before that in Chicago for 30 years and I've never seen such blatant and shameful theft by a city official, Mayor Rudy Clay, in my life. Mayor Clay claims he has trimmed the fat from the city payroll, that is an out and out **LIE**. All he has done is cut and disrupt city services at the cost of its residents. If the mayor really wants to trim the budget try getting rid of his son (who takes pictures of the mayor), the bodyguards (no one cares to approach you), and all your friends you packed the payroll with, I'd rather have the policemen, firemen, and garbage men back.

As Mayor Clay stated in an interview recently, "God has blessed me and He will continue to bless me". Mayor Clay, GOD does not bless liars or thieves, and you are both. Also, when asked to see the city payroll Mayor Clay stated, he doesn't have to show anyone the payroll. As a PUBLIC RECORD it should be available to anyone, that's of course if you haven't altered it.

Before the state considers giving Mayor Clay any money for Gary ask to see the city payroll and ask the "blessed" Mayor, **"WHY ARE YOUR FRIENDS AND SON STILL ON THE PAYROLL AND CITY WORKERS THAT ARE NECESSARY BEING FIRED"?**

The state should look closer into Gary spending before granting any monies.

Respectfully,
Noreen Lee
Gary Resident

Russo, Stephanie

From: Murphyle@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, December 28, 2008 5:14 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Distressed Unit in Gary

Dear Members of the Distressed Unit Appeals Board:

I am writing this e-mail to encourage you to not award a property tax variance to Gary. I have been a resident here since 1991, and I do not believe that the current city administration has truly worked to cut out the waste in government. Instead of studying redundancies and asking department heads who was expendable, Mayor Clay cut fire and police services. I believe he did this as a red herring and also because many of these people are unable to vote for him. We will soon pay for garbage pickup as a cost saving measure. However, Mr. Clay stated that no city workers would lose their jobs over the privatization. How does this cut costs? Mr. Clay's own son receives a salary from the GSD for taking pictures of the mayor. This smacks of patronage and is an expense that is unnecessary. At this point, I feel the only way Gary's belt will truly be tightened is if you help us by not making a variance to increase the budget. It is obvious we need help, but allowing the fat and waste to continue will not help any of the residents in the long term. We need help in culling out the waste whether Mayor Clay wants to or not.

Thank you.

Linda Murphy
8937 Lake Shore Drive
Gary, IN 46403
219-938-1997

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Russo, Stephanie

From: Denise H. Little [dhlittle@verizon.net]
Sent: Sunday, December 28, 2008 4:35 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Gary Bailout

NO NO NO!!!!!!!!!!!! Gary doesn't need a bailout. They need to be put into receivership and hire a company that is not on the take or that will waste taxpayer's money. I remember when Gary was a city to be proud of. They have the possibility of coming back but not under any of the current leadership.

Please again do NOT bail out Gary!!!! They need to sink or swim on their own. If they sink, that will be the only way to rid that city of graft and corruption because there will be nothing left to steal.

Denise H. Little
6874 Prairie Run Ave.
Portage, IN. 46368
219-929-7077

Russo, Stephanie

From: FunGrrl505@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, December 28, 2008 3:12 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Property Taxes in Gary

I am also against the rise of Property taxes in Gary. My taxes have gone down since the Tax Cap the Governor ordered....If the taxes goes back up for hard working Homeowners such as my self..I would move right out of Gary and not return paying taxes that will be so ridiculously high. Now if Clay wants a **ghost town in Gary**..he will get it.... if Gary receive any more money than they are slotted to get....Perhaps, Gary management should have thought about the budget of Gary long before the Tax Caps were put in place...!!!!!!...NO NO NO NO!!!!!! APPEAL BOARDS.....SAY NO!!!!!!

One site keeps you connected to all your email: AOL Mail, Gmail, and Yahoo Mail. [Try it now.](#)

Russo, Stephanie

From: John Ferree [johnferree@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, December 28, 2008 9:37 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Deny Gary's petition for relief

As a twenty year resident of Gary, I am appalled by the arrogance and corruption of the current administration of Mayor Rudy Clay. His request for relief from the Distressed Unit Appeals Board is just the latest attempt by the Mayor to continue business as usual. He continues to appoint family and friends to paid positions in city government and his private cash cow, the Gary Sanitary District. The Sheraton Hotel fiasco is a perfect example of the capriciousness of this administration. This man has no clue or intention of fixing the problems of this once great city. The waste of vital financial resources is evident in every department of government. When opportunities arose to sell unused school properties to private entities the Mayor and School Board declined. We have now lost out on much needed revenue these sales would have generated and now are maintaining crumbling, useless buildings. When looking at the Mayors claim that his administration has cut expenses to the bone you only need to look at the number of city employees in relation to the number of Gary citizens. I suspect this ratio is way out of line when compared with any city, even in Lake County, that is operating in a fiscally responsible manner. I respectfully request that the Board decline Gary's request for relief.

John Ferree
8105 Oak Ave
Miller Beach IN 46403
219-938-4224 Home
219-939-8810 Work
219-939-8813 Fax
219-670-0510 Cell
johnferree@sbcglobal.net

Russo, Stephanie

From: augdron@yahoo.com
Sent: Sunday, December 28, 2008 6:49 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: A Chicago Sun-Times article from: augdron@yahoo.com

The following article from the Chicago Sun-Times has been forwarded to you by augdron@yahoo.com

If you wish to stop receiving these articles, please contact the sender.

Comments from the sender:

signed ltr to be maild 12/29/08-Thanks for your concern for the people of NWI.

To read the full story, click here:

<http://www.post-trib.com/news/lake/1351787.gduab.article>

Russo, Stephanie

From: Maria Sanchez [maria_d_sanchez@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, December 27, 2008 11:17 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: No Bailout for Gary!

Dear Ms. Russo,

Please do not bailout Gary on January 5th. I am a citizen of Gary and I have not seen any improvements in our community in the past 2 1/2 years that I have lived here. Streets need to be repaved, trash was never picked up on time-nor completely picked up, tree trimmings in the dunes area have never been cleaned by the city, abandoned homes have not been torn down, etc.. etc... My list goes on and on. I wonder where our tax money has gone to???? It sure has not been in our community. Again I ask you please do not bail out Gary.

Best regards,

María Sánchez
8141 Maple Ave.
Gary, Indiana 46403

Cell:-773-225-6125

Russo, Stephanie

From: Chester Baran [chet1bar@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, December 26, 2008 11:24 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie

s. russo

i do not think it is in the best interests of the residents of gary to be 'bailed out' with any extension of revenue powers for the current administration. i consider the mayor to be incompetent and untrustworthy. so much of the administration and service personnel is built on cronyism and sweetheart deals that i think this network has to be broken up before any additional money is put into their hands. by starving this administration of funds we may be able to remove them from office.

i do not have any great trust in the daniel's administration either, but i have more concern in what i encounter locally. the reason i mention this is that other actions by the daniel's administration have affected income streams that should have made their way to our area because of economic activity in northwest indiana. don't deny us funding powers and then give them indiscriminately to other areas who may be just as abusive as we are and don't give these other areas monies that rightly belong to NW indiana.

sincerely,
chester baran
8800 maple ave
gary, in 46403

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Russo, Stephanie

From: peteriffle@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Wednesday, December 24, 2008 7:17 PM
To: Congressman Pete Visclosky; Russo, Stephanie; nglenn
Subject: Re: Fw: Hammond Times Editorial today

Bayh is a Blue Dog - don't count on him for anything.

--- On Wed, 12/24/08, nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net> wrote:

From: nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net>
Subject: Fw: Hammond Times Editorial today
To: "Congressman Pete Visclosky" <pete.visclosky@congressnewsletter.net>, srusso@sba.in.gov
Date: Wednesday, December 24, 2008, 4:39 PM

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

From: Barb Hansen
To: nglenn
Cc: Lee Botts ; Marilyn Krusas
Sent: Wednesday, December 24, 2008 11:31 AM
Subject: Hammond Times Editorial today

This was in the editorial section of the Hammond Times this morning:

Phone call could transfer federal dollars to Gary

BY DOUG ROSS

doug.ross@nwitimes.com

219.548.4360 | Wednesday, December 24, 2008 | [10 comment\(s\)](#)

When Evan Bayh was governor of Indiana, he came to Gary's rescue. If Mayor Rudy Clay plays his cards right, that might happen again.

In 1995, then-Mayor Scott King asked Bayh for help in bringing down the city's crime rate. Gary had the highest per-capita crime rate of any major city in the nation.

Bayh sent 50 Indiana State Police officers to patrol Gary's streets, giving the city time to hire and train new officers.

That was 13 years ago, and now Gary has more bad luck. The city is drowning in a budget quagmire.

Clay says when he took office, the city had to borrow money to pay off millions of dollars in past-due utility bills. All those years of poor financial decisions by past administrations -- and Clay's as well -- have finally caught up with the city government, thanks to the property tax caps being put in place by the Indiana General Assembly.

Meanwhile, the city has two big problems caused by its 4,000 to 5,000 derelict buildings. They are a magnet to crime, and they are a deterrent to economic development.

Blight feeds upon itself. Who wants to open a business -- unless it's illicit -- in the shadows of all those

economic failures?

Some of the downtown buildings are historic and protected by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Clay said the city is working out compromises with the DNR on those buildings.

But that still leaves thousands of other buildings with no such protection.

Clay put forward the idea of having the Indiana National Guard raze those abandoned buildings, but even though everyone seems to like the idea, the equipment to do the job is in Iraq, not Indiana.

Which brings us back to Bayh.

Bayh is an influential U.S. senator now and a force in the Indiana Democratic Party.

Bayh is helping put together a list of infrastructure and construction projects in Indiana that can get under way quickly if President-elect Obama's economic stimulus plan is approved.

Obama's philosophy, and Bayh's, is to spend federal money quickly to put Americans back to work on projects that will position the nation better for the future once the economy does bounce back.

Infrastructure and construction projects that don't require additional studies before work begins are expected to be a high priority.

If the National Guard can't tear down those buildings, why not private contractors using federal dollars?

Bayh told The Times this week that he likes this idea because it's a "twofer" -- it fights crime and increases the likelihood of economic development. And it puts Americans back to work.

But Bayh also said he hasn't been approached by Clay about this project.

If Clay needs it, I'd be happy to pass along that phone number. I want to see Gary thrive again. It could start with a simple phone call.

Hello Bayh, hello opportunity.

Editorial Page Editor Doug Ross can be reached at (219) 548-4360 or (219) 933-3357 or doug.ross@nwtimes.com. The opinion expressed in this column is the writer's and not necessarily that of The Times.

Barb Hansen
252 N Lake St.

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Russo, Stephanie

From: David Schroeder [david@rhinoacquisitions.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 24, 2008 4:36 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: City of Gary Petition

Ms. Russo,

Please forward this to whomever is appropriate on the Distressed Unit Appeals Board.

I am writing in protest of the City of Gary's petition for relief from the property tax caps. First, if you have ever been to a city office in Gary you would understand that eliminating 59% of the City's payroll, as Mayor Clay suggests will be necessary, would bring the City to appropriate staffing levels. Also, the idea that landlords should pay a very significantly larger share of taxes than owner occupied homes is ridiculous and will lead to further deterioration of the City.

I have owned property in Gary for almost 10 years. Since the taxes have been increased to over 7% of value I am barely able to cover the mortgages on my rental units even though only 25% of them have any mortgage at all. In addition I can't sell them because no one will buy a rental house where the taxes are \$3000 on a house that isn't even worth \$30,000? Don't even think that it could be sold to an owner occupant. I've sold dozens of houses in Gary, I've never sold one to an owner occupant. People who can qualify for mortgages don't live in Gary. Between Landlords and the demolition programs the city has been slowly improving. I rehabilitated every home I own there and they are nice homes at this point. For the past several years I have held back from investing further in Gary because of what I see as a looter government that is unable to see that raising taxes without limit will strangle the City to death. I was finally feeling better when these tax caps were passed and even considering buying more homes to rehab.

I was sickened to see the City officials try and avoid what by every sane account are reasonable limits to taxation. When they bankrupt all the landlords where will they go for money? I don't have any more to give them and have been borrowing just to keep paying them. I can't keep doing it and even if I could why would I? If the State refuses to stick to the limits that have been passed and puts it off until 2012 why would I or anyone else think it will end there?

I implore you to put an end to this insanity. Make them solve their problems without robbing their tax base.

Sincerely,
David Schroeder
Member, Rhino Acquisitions LLC

Russo, Stephanie

From: andrea basarich [abasarich@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, December 24, 2008 12:26 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Fw: Counting the Workers Who Don't Work for Gary?

--- On Wed, 12/24/08, nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net> wrote:
From: nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net>
Subject: Fw: Counting the Workers Who Don't Work for Gary?
To: Undisclosed-Recipient@yahoo.com
Date: Wednesday, December 24, 2008, 10:14 AM

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

From: Jack Lund
To: nglenn
Sent: Wednesday, December 24, 2008 3:13 AM
Subject: Counting the Workers Who Don't Work for Gary?

I agree with Kathy, but would go farther, and suggest that even those who actually show up for 'work', but then don't work, also be counted with the ghost 'workers'. And I'm thinking especially of parks workers, streets and sanitation workers, and front desk fingernail filers - folks who clearly do little or nothing, but get a paycheck 26 periods a year!

Those could have been cut immediately, so that firemen and cops wouldn't have had to have been cut. They were cut in a show of force, since they refused to do without a clothing allowance, as the mayor wanted.

He should have cut those ghosts and non-workers, instead, don't you agree? Once we add up those, department by department, and add up what they drain from the budget every payday, we might discover that there's enough remaining to pay for what's necessary - public safety, for example.

At 08:04 PM 12/23/2008, you wrote:

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

From: Kathy Long
To: nglenn
Sent: Sunday, December 21, 2008 7:35 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: Bite the bullet now...

Hey Beach,

we need to count all the city employees that collect a paycheck and NEVER show up at an office or report to work --- Gary has plenty of those check-cashers....

--- On Sun, 12/21/08, nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net> wrote:

