

January 2, 2009

City of Gary Appeal

Stephanie Russo
Executive Assistant
Office of Management and Budget

Dear Stephanie Russo,

I support the appeal of the City of Gary as a resident, property tax payer and member of the Board of Trustees of the Gary Community School Corporation. It is my understanding that Gary's appeal will not increase property taxes for homeowners, but will affect corporations and multifamily swelling owners. Basic city services and police and fire protection are essential to our city and must be maintained at effective levels.

I realize that all units of local government have had to cut budgets down to necessities; the Board of Trustees of the Gary Community School Corporation recently cut \$23 Million from our 2009 budget. The city of Gary has submitted their plan to consolidate departments and services and has documented the need for the city to receive relief through the Distressed Unit Appeals Board. Gary's appeal merits approval.

Sincerely,

Barbara D Leek
7300 Maple Avenue
Gary, Indiana 46403

219/938-8217

cc: Deputy Mayor Geraldine Toussant
City Controller Celita Green

Russo, Stephanie

From: Kloss, Craig [ckloss@walshgroup.com]
Sent: Friday, January 02, 2009 4:25 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Cc: craig kloss
Subject: Gary, Indiana, Property Tax Appeal

Dear Mr. Russo,

I am writing to you concerning the January 5th, 2009, tax relief appeal hearing for Gary, Indiana. I understand that the mayor of Gary is seeking approximately 30 million dollars in relief funds raised through property taxes or the city will have to start cutting back. I am opposed to ANY increase in taxes for the city of Gary. The politicians running this city's government have wasted tens of millions of dollars thru ineptitude, corruption, and sheer waste and should not any additional funding until they learn to properly manage what they have. Some examples of their blatant mismanagement and misappropriation include:

1. "Borrowing" over 20 million dollars from the Gary Sanitary District with no schedule of repayment. The Gary Sanitary District then raised rates 85% because of a "budget shortfall". Mayor Clay then attempted to have other local municipalities who use these sanitary services pay for this misappropriation by issuing them bills with falsified and inflated sanitary outflow readings. This illegal action is now the subject of a federal criminal investigation.
2. "Renovating" a dilapidated downtown hotel that had been deemed uninhabitable and worthless by the company hired by the city to inspect and appraise the property. This property is to become a nursing home although there is no need for a nursing home in a run down portion of the city without nearby shopping or other amenities. The architectural firm hired to oversee the project has been involved in numerous similar projects that were part of a criminal corruption investigation. Many of these projects were never completed or required costly additional repairs even though millions of public dollars were spent in the process.
3. Entering into a contractual agreement with the owner of the local casino boats to build a roadway to link the casinos to a local highway. Even though a substantial amount of money had been paid to the city to perform this work by the casino owner, the city never even started the roadway. This roadway would have helped the casinos remain profitable amid stiffer local competition. Now the Gary casinos have fallen behind in revenue compared to the neighboring casinos in part due to the lack of infrastructure improvements. In addition, Gary is embroiled in lengthy litigation with the casino owner over this breach of contract. Further improvements the owner might have made to keep up with his neighbors now languish while this matter slowly winds its way through the courts.
4. Questionable contracts to family members and political operatives. One example of this is Mayor Clay giving his son two contracts, one from the city of Gary and one from the Gary Sanitary District, to take photographs. Mayor Clay's son's only qualification for the job appears to be a prior conviction for making illegal Indiana state ID's while operating a storefront in Gary when the mayor was a county commissioner.
5. Illegal salary reduction and shift changes for Gary policemen. Mayor Clay attempted to cut the salaries of Gary policemen and make significant shift changes. Both of these actions were halted in federal court because they would have been a breach of contract. The mayor's action appeared to be simply a scare tactic to get public sympathy for his increase in taxes through the appeals board.

Unfortunately the items listed above are just a few examples of what the overburdened taxpayers of Gary must put up with. These situations have become so commonplace that there isn't even a public outcry anymore. That is why it would be sheer negligence to allow Gary's politicians to get their hands on an additional 30 million dollars. Gary's government needs to learn to live within the means of what Gary's taxpayers can afford to pay. If Gary's citizens must tighten their belt in Recessionary times, so must its government.

Thank you for your time.

Dear Ms. Russo —

I have lived in Gary for over 70 yrs and in all that time the City of Gary has never learned to live within its Budget. 45 million Baseball park plus waste in all departments etc.

As taxpayers we bear the brunt of all the folly and waste in all departments.

My wife + I are opposed to the city of Gary asking for the right to exceed the tax caps in 2009.

Sincerely

Harvey + Edw Gross

1140 St. Joseph St.
Gary, IN, 46403

December 30, 2008

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

Re: Gary, Indiana Bailout

Dear Sir/Ms.,

I am opposed to any bailout for the city of Gary. I do not live in "The Murder Capital" but I do a lot of business in Gary. It is a disgrace how the city is managed and the lack of ability by 90% of the employees...they do not have any idea what they should be doing.

The mayor is a disgrace, all political in everyway and is a poor manager.

I could go on but there is no need to do so. "NO BAILOUT", it is time for a "SWEAT OUT".

Respectfully submitted,



Howard O. Cyrus, SIOR

HC/mt

December 29, 2008

To whom it may concern,

I am protesting the proposed financial bailout of Gary, Indiana. My primary residence is Crown Point, In, but I do also own vacant land in Gary. I am quite certain that all possible avenues of securing money to restore the city of Gary's coffers and eliminate financial waste have not met your criteria. Gary's mayor Rudy Clay has squandered and continues to squander money. For example, immediately following his swearing in ceremony January 1, 2008, he created a public relations position for his son, Rudy Clay Jr. The position's main duty was for the son to take pictures of his dad, the mayor, at various events. The salary was approximately 25,000 dollars for a six month renewable contract. The mayor's son also is paid roughly the same amount within the same time frame to record monthly meetings of the Gary sanitation district. Not only is this a ludicrous amount of pay for this type of job but it certainly is nepotistic.

Please allow me to digress for a minute. My husband and I have 4 children. My husband earns about 60,000 dollars per year with overtime in the mills. We are financially solvent because I am very vigilant with our earnings and practice frugality. How nice it must be to have daddy line your pockets with a lucrative paying and cushy job. Rudy Clay Jr. was also cited a few months ago for being involved in a fender bender and having no current auto insurance (An interesting situation although not germane, I realize.)

Mayor Rudy Clay continues to tool around in a city leased Hummer vehicle and employs several body guards. (yet, declares that Gary is not a dangerous city). Numerous city contracts are given to friends and family. Does anybody remember several years ago there were allegations concerning Mayor Clay and his friend involving the crème of the crop property title liens?? Gary continues its tradition of sweetheart deals and crony-ism. Fat is certainly not being cut where it matters most--- in political pockets.

If you would like documents backing up any or all of my aforementioned allegations, I will certainly provide you with them. Thank you and please tread carefully and thoughtfully, as I know you will, before making your bailout decision.

Sincerely,
Dawn Kirk

Dawn Kirk
225 Oak St.

Crown Point, IN

46307

Home (219) 661-8233

Cell (219) 789-1342

To Whom It May Concern:

In pursuant to House Bill 1001 legislation, a state wide tax relief for taxpayers under IC. 6-1.1-20.6 and the City of Gary set forth a petition of appeal to the Distress Unit appeals Board (**DUAB**) under IC. 6-1.1-20.3-6.

Although the above legislation intent purposed the reduction of taxes for 2 years, the City of Gary struggle to decrease administration and operation costs from its budget, and being mindful of taxpayers need for services as the financial shortfall continues on Lake County's tax levy. This overwhelming mandate for this substantial reduction is uncommon to any private or public operation, and jeopardizes the future of the City of Gary.

The City's plan identifies those ideologies of a continuum work in progress with build in mechanisms for relief and solvency. I encouraged the strength of the DUAB will to align priorities for the city continued operations and services that affects the status quo.

The above mandated requirements attempts grave challenges instantiated by hasty unfavorable results being multiple effects of the ability to sub standard operations for a second class city regarding foreseen and unforeseeable circumstances in a very short time frame. Consequently, with this said not inexorable or shortsighted but concerned regarding taxpayers and citizens quality of life in the City of Gary. The relief will help assist in the ongoing progress to meet state statute.

Nathaniel T. Williams
Precinct Committeeman G4-8
City of Gary

Russo, Stephanie

From: mcceaton@aol.com
Sent: Friday, January 02, 2009 5:54 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Gary Tax Appeal

For the past generation, Gary's government expenditures have been growing even as the tax base was shrinking. Then, in 2002, state legislation greatly accelerated this process, by dramatically reducing the taxes on US Steel and dramatically increasing the taxes on residential property. This resulted in a ruinous tax rate which has destroyed what remained of the sagging local economy.

Because of outcry from Gary taxpayers, and later from taxpayers throughout Indiana, tax caps were enacted to protect property owners. Even this did not cause the city of Gary and its subsidiary taxing units to cut back on spending. As a result, the city is now seeking to impose tax rates which greatly exceed the legislated caps. I urge you to reject the city's appeal.

Remember that Gary taxpayers are already paying more than the capped tax rates. In 2007/2008, homesteads theoretically benefit from a 2% cap, but in Gary a Tuition Support Levy of 1.19% is added to this rate, making the cap 3.19%. In 2008/2009, the Tuition Support Levy disappears and the tax cap is reduced to 1.5%, but all classes of taxpayers will be paying a Debt Service Tax of about .75%, so the real capped rates are 2.25% for homesteads, 3.25% for other residential property, and 4.25% for businesses. These are the actual rates which the city wants you to raise.

I say we can't handle it. The excessive local tax rates have already destroyed our commercial base, and the continuation of the tax differential between Gary and the surrounding communities will prevent any chance of new investment which could improve the quality of life in our city and increase the income of our government.

In the meantime, Gary has not reorganized its operations, has not cut back on spending, has not eliminated waste and inefficiency, let alone graft and corruption. Giving the city more money to operate will only allow the continuation of inefficient and ineffective government. Don't do it!

Only if Gary's tax rates are comparable to those in surrounding communities, is there a chance that the city might once again grow and develop and the current residents might be able to keep living here.

Thomas D. Eaton
8540 Oak Avenue
Gary, IN 46403

mcceaton@aol.com

Russo, Stephanie

From: Nancy Levgard [millerbch@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Saturday, January 03, 2009 12:37 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: City of Gary Petition

Dear Board Member:

I object to the application by the City of Gary for additional property tax. City government has done little to cut the budget except to cut vital services of fire and police protection. Please do not allow this administration to waste more of our tax dollars.

Thank you,
Nancy Levgard

December 30, 2008

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

To Whom It May Concern:

As a property owner of more than 20 Gary, Indiana properties, I am distressed to see that Gary is appealing the property tax caps which are going into effect in every other county in the state of Indiana. We need this tax cap to go into effect immediately – with no delay. I have talked with many property owners in Gary and they are in agreement with me.

We have been investing in this community for years. We buy houses, fix them up and rent them. However, Gary's inability to manage its services and budgets like other cities is driving us out of business. We cannot tolerate this tax rate for another year or we will all be out of business.

I want you to imagine owning property and having to pay 8% or more of its total value in taxes every year. This scenario makes it impossible for investors to make any profit and to want to continue to invest and improve the properties in Gary.

In the rest of the state, taxes are capped at 2% of the value of your home. Gary is driving the very people who make the community viable out of business. Why should we have to pay such high taxes for one moment longer. The sad story is that we don't even get decent services for the taxes we do pay. The small business community cannot carry the entire city and pay for all of the mismanagement of funds and expenditures that occur here.

If you have a \$50,000 house under the current rate, your taxes are \$4,000.00 a year. If this rate is retained we will not be able to continue doing business in Gary. You cannot raise rents enough to cover this outrageous tax amount.

Please consider the impact losing all of the investors in Gary property on the community. It cannot in any way make things better. We ask for your sincere consideration of this situation.

We are sending this letter anonymously because we fear retribution if our name is published. It is very difficult to do business in the city now and we are desperate to make things as viable for our company as possible.

Sincerely,
A Gary Investor

Russo, Stephanie

From: Scott Alwin [scottalwin@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 03, 2009 1:12 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Pleaes don't grant Gary's application
Attachments: RussoLetter.doc

January 3, 2009

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

Dear Ms. Russo:

We're writing to register our strong opposition to the City of Gary's application for the authority to levy property taxes beyond the tax cap established by the state legislature. You've already received dozens of letters from longtime Gary residents opposed to this application, so we won't reiterate their comments here. But we'd like to pass along two experiences we've had since purchasing our home in February 2007.

1. In less than two years, our basement has flooded numerous times because the pumping stations operated by the Gary Sanitary District stopped operating. Several times, this has occurred when it hadn't rained in weeks; the pumping stations simply went down. Each time we've called the Gary Sanitary District, our concerns have been met with indifference. In other words, it's our problem, not theirs. So much for customer service, despite a recent doubling in sewer fees.
2. Soon after purchasing our home, we called to request a city garbage can. We were told garbage cans were on back order and we'd receive one as soon as they came in. For 16 months, we remained without a garbage can. When we put out neatly-tied garbage bags in front of our home, the city refused to collect them because they weren't in a city garbage can. The only way we finally received a garbage can was by appealing for the intervention of our representative on the Gary Common Council.

Perhaps all of this would be tolerable – or at least understandable – if property taxes were very low or non-existent. But the taxes on our modest Cape Cod-style home soared to nearly \$8,000 last year in a city where the schools are terrible and the roads are even worse. Clearly, money is not the issue.

Please don't reward gross negligence, stunning incompetence and criminal mismanagement. Doing so would only prolong the inevitable change that must occur for the city and its citizens to move forward. By denying the City of Gary's request, you will send the critically-needed message that it's time for new management.

Sincerely,

Scott Alwin and Yvette Shields
8512 Maple Ave.
Gary, IN 46403

Russo, Stephanie

From: Alfreda Peterson [apeterson@garyhousing.org]
Sent: Saturday, January 03, 2009 1:46 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Support of Gary's Appeal

Dear Sir/Madame:

I am writing to solicit your support of the Gary, Indiana's appeal to the Distressed Unit Board. We desperately need you to rule in our favor if we are to operate in 2009. Thank you in advance for your favorable response.

Alfreda M. Peterson
Executive Director, Gary Housing Authority
578 Broadway
Gary, IN 46402
(219) 881-6422
apeterson@garyhousing.org

Russo, Stephanie

From: Grykatrina3@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, January 04, 2009 11:23 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Appeal Tax Cap loss
Attachments: Tax cap appeal ltr -city of gary.doc

Mrs. Russo:

Please find an attached letter of appeal for the tax cap loss for the city of Gary.

Thank you for taking the time to read my appeal and your consideration in this matter.

Katrina Davis

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

January 5, 2009

Indiana Office of Management and Budget
State House Room #215
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Attn: Stephanie N Russo

Re: Tax Cap Loss Appeal
City of Gary

Dear Mrs. Russo:

Please accept this as a formal letter of appeal for the tax cap loss in the City of Gary. I am in total disagreement with the decision to remove the tax cap because of the great economic uncertainty we are facing.

Considering the current conditions in the real estate markets will have a large impact on the valuation process and final assessments. Slight changes in the market can produce significant impact. Due to some of these changes, the original mortgages are valued at one-third its actual value. This is the main reason the tax cap should not be removed. Secondly, this will cause a setback and hardship for those that are elderly, unemployed and on a fixed income. By removing the cap will cause an increase in foreclosures and tax sales of homes. What you will have is more vacant and abandoned houses. Let us take time to consider the people who have worked hard and still working to keep their homes.

I feel other avenues should be considered on how monies can be brought back into the city because this not the solution.

Thanking you in advance for your much-needed consideration of the people in your decision making to allow the tax cap to remain.

Respectfully,

Katrina Davis
Katrina Davis

Russo, Stephanie

From: Megan Cecil & Chris Dilts [cecildilts@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 04, 2009 10:46 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: City of Gary Bailout

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

Dear Ms. Russo:

My understanding is that a request has been made from my city, Gary, Indiana for additional funds to meet the budget.

As a life-long resident of almost 50 years & both sets of my grandparents arriving in Gary in 1900, I have seen many things happen in Gary and Northwest Indiana. As a proponent of Property Tax reform which was created to encourage business growth in our state and fair & equity property taxes, I should hope that additional funds will not be given to the city.

Whether the intent is purposeful or ignorant, the city is mismanaged. Our governmental taxing units have had ample time to adjust budgets. Opposed to allowing any taxing unit the opportunity to tax citizens, it would make more sense to make them prove that they can manage the funds that they would receive through taxation.

I have travelled throughout the country and have seen economically depressed areas, and it is shameful and embarrassing to see the manner in which this city is kept. I will not blame an individual, group, political party or official. BUT, if contacting this office is one of a few options a citizen has to help stop the neglect, I hope you will listen to us. We can write letters and make phone calls. BUT, only you can stop the bleeding.

I still have hope that my nine year old daughter will raise her family here. Let's hope there will be a reason for her return.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Megan E. Cecil, Broker/Owner/Homeowner
Cecil Real Estate, Inc.
8737 Lake Shore Drive
Gary, Indiana 46403
219-938-0786
CecilDilts@sbcglobal.net

Russo, Stephanie

From: nglenn [nglenn@netnitco.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 04, 2009 10:09 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Fw: gary's budget

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

From: [Bill Latoza](#)
To: [nglenn](#)
Sent: Sunday, January 04, 2009 11:20 AM
Subject: gary's budget

I just read Mayor Clay's editorial in the Post tribune today, and learned that the budget for the city is about \$65,000,000 and that the police and fire departments cost the city about \$31,000,000. Now, assuming this is correct, and i have no reason to believe it isn't, these numbers represent an average cost to the citizens of Gary of \$650 a year ($\$65,000,000 / 100,000 = \650). On the basis of these numbers, it doesn't seem too outrageous. However, in light of the \$10,000 a year i pay in property taxes, i just wonder where is this money going? Perhaps someone could explain to me why we have the worst roads, the worst schools, high crime, and a city that resembles Pompeii.

Russo, Stephanie

From: David deLeeuwe [ddmax64@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, January 05, 2009 12:11 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Cc: jseidel@post-trib.com
Subject: no more money for gary's bloater government

Dear Office of Management and Budget

I write in opposition to the City of Gary's request for additional money. The City of Gary has over 1,600 full time employees, an additional 200 part time employees, and at least another 100 individuals hired as consultants or working under professional service contracts. Lake Station, in contrast, has under 70 people on its payroll.

Gary, with an estimated population of 95,000, expends roughly \$6,168 per person annually. Lake Station, with an estimated population of 14,000, expends only \$1,071 per person annually, while Lake Station is an arguably cleaner, safer and more prosperous nearby community made up of similar people.

Differently put, Gary employs more than twenty two times the number of city workers employed by Lake Station, excluding Gary's part time employees and consultants, (Gary's 1600 to Lake Station's 70 employees), even though Gary is only seven times larger than Lake Station.

More spending on yet more Gary staff is *not* the answer and may in fact be part of the problem. Please do not let the property tax payers continue to be skewered by an excessively bloated city government.

Thank you,

David deLeeuwe

Russo, Stephanie

From: LOIS OSBORN [eatatswallow@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 05, 2009 12:46 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Cc: jseidel@post-trib.com
Subject: city of gary- don;t give them any money

Dear Office of Mangement and Budget

I write in opposition to the City of Gary's request for additional money. The City of Gary has over 1,600 full time employees, an additional 200 part time employees, and at least another 100 individuals hired as consultants or working under professional service contracts. Lake Station, in contrast, has under 70 people on its payroll.

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Differently put, Gary employs more than twenty two times the number of city workers employed by Lake Station, excluding Gary's part time employees and consultants, (Gary's 1600 to Lake Station's 70 employees), even though Gary is only seven times larger than Lake Station.

More spending on yet more Gary staff is *not* the answer and may in fact be part of the problem. Please do not let the property tax payers continue to be skewered by an excessively bloated city government.

Thank you,
Lois Osborn

Russo, Stephanie

From: Deanne Manojlovic [dee_mano@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 05, 2009 2:09 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: PLEASE say NO to Gary's bailout

To the Indiana Office of Management and Budget,

Please do not grant the petition by Rudy Clay for a bailout for Gary, Indiana. I'll be brief. My family had to move away from Gary in order to provide my children with an acceptable and safe education. I do, however, still own a home in Gary, Indiana, where my elderly father resides. That is why this issue is still very important to me. For this small home in much need of repair, I pay over \$5,000 in taxes. While I understand that part of the reason it is so high is because I do not have a mortgage exemption, I still feel that that amount is grossly unfair. The tax caps may help me from telling my father he will have to find a new place to stay as I cannot continue to pay those inflated taxes.

What really aggravates me is that Rudy Clay continues to bring down the city of Gary and gets away with it. He has not cut the budget everywhere possible. To my knowledge he still has a chauffeur/body guard. Has he dismissed the contract he made with his son to take pictures of him at events? I'm sure there are lots of places to trim the fat, as they say. To me, the fact that he says he will have to cut police and fire personnel for the next two years, tells me that he is playing on people's emotions. Why would the mayor of a crime ridden, gang infested city cut police and fire personnel? Ever? Other service personnel or offices should be the first to go! Please do not grant his request! He will only squander the money on his own agenda, not for the benefit of our city.

Sincerely,
Deanne Manojlovic

Send e-mail anywhere. No map, no compass. [Get your Hotmail® account now.](#)

Russo, Stephanie

From: MERMAIDSYL@aol.com
Sent: Monday, January 05, 2009 7:26 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: City of Gary Seeking funds

Hello,

I am a resident of Gary and I am not in favor of giving more to money to Gary or permission for them to raise their revenues through property tax.

Gary needs to be accountable for how they operate. The private sector seems to have to operate this way.

City government needs to be trimmed and not at the Police and Fire level...which is where they always threaten to start.

Thank you,

Sylvia Collins

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

Russo, Stephanie

From: gbbsgar@aol.com
Sent: Monday, January 05, 2009 8:21 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Fwd: The audacity of hope, Gary style!

It's not realistic for any one homeowner in Gary to pay \$10,000 plus in property tax. I concur with the following e-mails.

Gary Gibbs

Gary Indiana

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

From: nglenn <nglenn@netnitco.net>
To: Undisclosed-Recipient::
Sent: Sun, 4 Jan 2009 6:28 pm
Subject: Fw: The audacity of hope, Gary style!

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

From: Beach46403@aol.com
To: nglenn@netnitco.net
Sent: Saturday, January 03, 2009 12:16 PM
Subject: The audacity of hope, Gary style!

This letter was sent to me. I love it. The writer asked that I take their name off before distributing, which I did. It has already been sent to the DUAB in Indy.

Dear Board Members:

By now, I'm sure that most people are familiar with Barack Obama's book, *The Audacity of Hope* -- a book filled with clear thinking, principled ideas, and a "get back to basics" approach to getting this country back on track. Now that the author has been elected president, I think that we should all be heartened and optimistic about our chances to pull together and turn this ship around and get it back on its proper course.

But then I look closer to home and I see a completely different audacity of hope. I see the audacity of the current Gary administration to do absolutely nothing that is in the best interests of its citizens, and hope that no one cares. I see the audacity of the mayor to use scare tactics and gloom and doom prophecies to further his plan to negate the tax relief that we so desperately need, and hope that no one cares.

And the real audacity is the mayor's willingness to drag the city of Gary's name even deeper through the mud by going downstate on his knees, hat in hand, and begging for more money, thereby making a de facto admission that Gary is the only municipality in the state that can't stand on its own two feet, and hope that we're all too numb to care!

So it is with this that I implore the Distressed Unit Appeals Board to rule against the mayor's plea, thus forcing the changes necessary for long-term sustainability in our city.

xxxxx xxxxxxxxx
Gary, Indiana

Russo, Stephanie

From: csmith@ptsc.k12.in.us
Sent: Monday, January 05, 2009 12:38 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: VOTE NO to Gary request for assistance

Dear DUAB Board,

I am totally apposed to giving the City of Gary assistance when the city has not eliminated non-essential jobs for its payroll in the city government taxing unit. They have not been fiscally responsible for many years. Without the help of big business taxes (steel companies and BP), the city is in a financial crisis. This is old news. Gary has had several years to clean up the unnecessary spending, but they have not acted responsibly. The mayor of Gary should not be receiving a \$33,300 salary as head of the Gary Sanitary District over and above his salary as mayor. The mayor's son should not have been added to the payroll to take photos for the city. The mayor does not need to be escorted in a Hummer. The list goes on. The citizens of Gary have no confidence in the mayor of Gary, the city council, or other appointed officials. Unfortunately, many of the voters in Gary are on the payroll as employees or as board members on numerous boards. These board members receive stipends stipends for attending meetings. They are beholden to the mayor and not acting in the best interest of the city of Gary. The MCC (Miller Citizens Corporation) is the only board that I am aware of that is totally volunteers who do not receive any form of pay for their service.

The City of Gary's expenditures for unnecessary jobs needs to be seriously investigated before the state of Indiana agrees to assist the city. Our 2% cap has already been increased to 3% due to special action to save our schools. The actions of city government to do not reflect the wishes of the constituents of Gary.

Carol Smith
1151 N. Ripley Street
Gary, Indiana 46403

Russo, Stephanie

From: GHCS Inc [ghcs@email.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 31, 2008 3:19 PM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Help for Gary!

As a 4th generation Hoosier, this is an urgent appeal for support needed to help Gary, the "foundation community" of our great state. And the rocks cry out! Sincerely, GHCS

--

Be Yourself @ mail.com!

Choose From 200+ Email Addresses

Get a Free Account at www.mail.com <<http://www.mail.com/Product.aspx>> !

Russo, Stephanie

From: AYoung7550@aol.com
Sent: Monday, January 05, 2009 7:55 AM
To: Russo, Stephanie
Subject: Protest Letter to the Distressed Unit Appeal Board 1/4/2009

1/4/2009

Dear Board Members:

In reading the City's presentation, it is stated over and over, that they have approximately 1356 employees. However, according to their published payrolls; in 2006 they had 1410 and in 2007 they had 1445. I have not heard of a reduction of 89 employees in 2008. I am not familiar with ANY significant staffing reductions in 2008. I am aware of many new hires and numerous new jobs being created. Nearly all of these positions went to friends or relatives of the Mayor. Many of these "reductions" in staffing, if scrutinized, would probably yield that it has been no more than a shell game. A shifting of employees from one department to another, or shifting them to a different funding stream, one that may receive its funding from a source other than property tax revenue. But altogether, there has been no real effort to eliminate superfluous and redundant positions. As we can plainly see, there was an increase of 35 employees between 2006 and 2007. Rudy Clay was the mayor during this period.

There are also many other individuals that could only be described as employees that are not listed. The entire Department of Redevelopment is not listed. None of the employees that are being paid by personal service contracts are listed. There are staff attorneys working on a contract basis. And there are a whole lot of other taxing units in the city whose employees and costs are not listed in the main presentation. It simply can't take this many people to run a city properly. But evidently, this is how many it takes to run a city very, very, improperly!

The City has at least 171 positions that would fall under the category of General Services personnel. Yet, we can't get much general service. The Parks department has 180 employees yet our parks are a disaster. And with 180 of our own employees, why would we possibly need to outsource grass cutting for many of the parks? And why would we possibly have to use a Michigan-based company? And they suggest that they'll close the pools to save money; they haven't had but one or two of the pools open for years. And the ones they do have open sporadically, aren't maintained to any useable standard.

They list three tow truck drivers yet they contract out all of their towing. Eight of their General Service employees are assigned to park maintenance. They list 26 of their 6-Wheeler drivers as GSD. I guess these would be the 26 garbage truck drivers' positions that were supposed to be eliminated when the City outsourced the trash collection and assessed a user-fee to all residents. But none of these positions were actually eliminated. The Mayor found other jobs for them. And with the outsourcing of the trash collection, one would have thought that we would be able to eliminate our fleet of garbage trucks and the costs associated therewith, but alas no, the Mayor stated that those would be retained for, in his words, "extracurricular" garbage pickup. You may not be familiar with this term, but I've researched it and determined it to mean political garbage service. Vote-getting garbage pickup. So while the trash pickup outsourcing was pitched as an idea that would cut costs, we now find, not to anyone's surprise; that it hasn't saved any money or cut any costs at all.

