

**The original mission statement of the GOGP included the call for a change in this city's form of government.**

**Why did we do this?**

**From 1884 to 1900 Galveston employed the Aldermanic Form of government with the mayor acting as the Chief Executive Officer, and the population grew about 60%.**

**From 1901 to 1960, the City switched to the Commission form of government, and the population grew 78%.**

**From 1960 to 2010, Galveston decided to change to the City-Manager form of government, and the population declined 29%.**

**Did the City-Manager form of government cause 20,000 people to flee the City over the last 50 years, during a boom in the State's population growth?**

**Not directly, but it seems it must have indirectly, because the various factions in this city find it impossible to be governed in a productive way by this form of government. They elect you as their representatives to oversee the appointed Chief Executive Officer, and then threaten and try to intimidate you when you attempt to fulfill your most important obligation to the voters, because they want the CEO to have more power than the Council. To do this properly, he must be elected!**

**Knowing that a strong and vocal faction has a history of supporting the CEO over the Council, how can we possibly continue to employ the City-Manager form of government? Shall we give it another 10 years to see if**

**there is improvement? Or, we could wait until the population is down to 30,000 just to be sure.**

**The City must go back to the practice of electing its Chief Executive Officer to eliminate the ability of local factions to try to give the City's appointed CEO more power than their elected representatives.**

**The Founding Fathers made it very clear that elected civilians were to be the ultimate authority over unelected bureaucrats and members of the military, because they answered to the voters. The events over the past few days are reminiscent of the power struggle between General Douglas MacArthur and President Truman in 1951.**

**After the landing at Inchon, MacArthur was a national hero and became more popular than the President. When MacArthur over stepped his authority, Truman fired him, and some, like Senator Robert Taft, called for Truman's impeachment.**

**Truman did what he had to do to protect the principals of the Founders, even if MacArthur had been correct in the dispute, and this Council did what it had to do to protect our local government. However, by changing our form of government, this type of showdown may never have to happen again.**

**Until such time as the form of government can be changed, you need to look for a new City Manager. We need someone who has established success in another city, and has no existing ties within this community so he can begin with a clean slate! A short-term turn around specialist would be ideal.**

**David Stanowski  
President,  
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