

30 June 2012

Good morning Councilmembers,

The GOGP would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of you on your election to this Council. We regret that we were unable to attend the first meeting of the new Council on 28 June to offer our good wishes in person, but we had to be out of the City at that time.

We hope that the community appreciates the amount of effort that it required to participate in the democratic process to run for these offices, and is grateful for your dedication to this city. We look forward to working with each of you over the next two years.

Upon our return to the City, we were quite surprised and concerned that the discussion about the alleged wrongdoing at the Galveston Housing Authority had disappeared from the 28 June agenda. However, after further reflection, it does not seem to be the right time for City Council to conduct a public hearing on this matter.

Considering the fact that there has been no change in the GHA's Executive Director, and that Mayor Rosen has been unable to appoint an entirely new Board, the Whistleblowers do not feel that they are in a position to safely turn over affidavits or other documents to the City Council, or the GHA Board, or to testify in public meetings, at this time.

Therefore, we would like to suggest the following alternative actions that could be safely undertaken at the next meeting and request that you put them on the agenda to ensure that the problems at the GHA are truly eliminated and not just swept under the rug:

1. Ask the new GHA Commissioners to direct the Executive Director to declare a moratorium on all further employee terminations, and other adverse personnel actions, until the allegations of the GHA Whistleblowers can be fully investigated.
2. Ask the new GHA Commissioners to allow the City Auditor to conduct a full forensic audit of the GHA.
3. Pass a resolution stating that the City of Galveston is assigning the highest priority to investigating and prosecuting public corruption by requesting the District Attorney, the FBI, HUD's regional Inspector General, and the Office of Special Counsel to launch investigations into the allegations reported by the GHA Whistleblowers.

It is not sufficient to simply replace the old Board with new Commissioners and move on. Although the allegations of the Whistleblowers need to be thoroughly investigated, by the government entities listed above, the City Council needs to remain involved in this process. You are the individuals that the people have just elected to represent them. You are the ones that people know and trust! City Council meetings are where the people watch their government at work.

If this new Council wants the people to have confidence in their City government, they need to see the vigorous

pursuit of public corruption when it is reported by government employees. Anything less will leave them cynical and disheartened; and expecting further disappointment and decline in this City.

Finally, the Whistleblowers want this Council to know that the problems at the GHA continue to this day, regardless of the results of the election, so they are looking for a signal that you are going to remain committed to finding a permanent solution.