

Our Appellant's Brief was Filed!

18 November 2014

The nine-part series on poverty, that the GOP published, between 22 September and 23 October, graphically revealed the deteriorating condition of the City. In conversations with dozens of people since that time, most were shocked and horrified at how dire conditions had become, and had no doubt that the City Council would not even attempt to do anything about it.

In fact, rather than trying to reduce poverty, City government, both the City Council and the GHA, continue on a course that is specifically designed and intended to INCREASE the level of poverty. Of course, as they continue to vote to support the growth of poverty, they try to convince us, with contrived hand wringing and crocodile tears, that they have no choice but to increase poverty in order to receive federal handouts, even as voters wait for any sign of asphalt trucks repaving City streets.

With a weak and embarrassing City government, that has made the City the most dependent welfare recipient on the Island, there is truly no hope of persuading them to reverse their policy of

growing poverty which means that there is no political solution to this problem. This dose of reality created a shift from denial to hopelessness and despair regarding the future of the City.

This should also make it painfully obvious that the only hope of halting the growth of poverty rests with the GOP's appeal to the 5th Circuit Court.

Please encourage your friends, neighbors and family members to send whatever financial support they can to help keep this effort going. It is quite literally our ONLY hope! We will be eternally grateful for all of the support that you have already given to us!

Yesterday afternoon, we filed our first Appellant's Brief, and we think that our legal team did an outstanding job showing the Appellate court the MASSIVE judicial errors committed by the District Court!

[Link to Read Appellant's Brief](#)

[Link to Read Record Excerpts](#)

What's Next?

The government entities (HUD, the GLO, the TDHCA, the City of Galveston and the Galveston

Housing Authority) fighting to return segregated public housing to the City's most impoverished neighborhoods, now have **30 calendar days to file their Appellee's Brief.**

After that, we have **14 calendar days to file our Appellant's Reply Brief.**

Then the briefs go to a 3-judge panel for review. We don't know how long they will take to make their decision.

Now that we have had the opportunity to review all of our arguments for reversal, during the preparation of our Appellant's Brief, we are even more confident that the District Court SHOULD be reversed. Of course, whether it will be is an entirely different matter!

Poverty Update:

Last week, the Census Bureau released some new data for the City of Galveston in the form of the 2011-2013 ACS. **It showed that poverty continues to grow even without any new public housing!** In its present condition, the City is simply NOT conducive to middle-class population growth. **Poverty ticked up from 24.7% to 25.0%.**

(Remember the **20% poverty level is considered**

the Tipping Point where poverty, and the effects of poverty, begin to overwhelm a city and produce problems for both those living in poverty and those who are not; creating a very noticeable "corrosive" environment. At this point, public policy also begins to be dominated by the need to address the problems created by high poverty.)

2000 Census % Poverty (See QT-P34)	2010 Census % Poverty (See ????)	2010-2012 ACS % Poverty (See DP03)	2011-2013 ACS % Poverty (See DP03)
22.3%	22.5%	24.7%	25.0%

The population did rise slightly, but since poverty also went up, this does NOT show **middle-class** population growth.

2000 Census Population	2010 Census Population	2010-2012 ACS Population (See DP05)	2011-2013 ACS Population (See DP05)
57,247	47,743	47,689	48,237
	-9,504	-54	+548

Using the current population estimate of 48,237 and the poverty estimate of 25.0%; 12,059 people are currently living below the poverty level.

If our appeal is unsuccessful, **the GHA's rebuilding plan will add between 1,600 and 2,000 new impoverished people to the City's population.** If there were no other changes to the City's

population, **this will increase the poverty level to between 27% and 28%!** If more middle class residents respond to the GHA rebuilding plan by leaving the City, the poverty level will grow even further!

Without a victory at the Appellate Court, the poverty level could easily push to the 30% level in the next few years; the level currently "enjoyed" by Newark, NJ.

That is what is at stake here!