

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Galveston Rap Video: Who's Spreading the Fear?

GALVESTON, Texas – 25 February 2010

We have to congratulate Mayor Thomas and Councilman Woods on great political theatre tonight. They certainly outsmarted our humble attempts to have a well-reasoned and rational policy debate over public housing, by perfectly orchestrating an emotional drama of self-righteous indignation that left absolutely no room for good judgment to prevail. Their best move of the night was the rap video!

As the advocates of a countywide housing plan, the Galveston Open Government Project is the primary opponent of GHA's SACRED PLAN. We have endured months of implied and explicit charges a racism, for the sin of failing to go along with THE SACRED PLAN. There was also at least one instance of a threat to "load up the buses", and "bring in the troops", if THE SACRED PLAN didn't pass.

Finally, as the Council vote approached, we received a rap video that featured gang bangers singing menacing lyrics and making threatening moves in front of the Galveston Housing Projects. We took this as an overt attempt to intimidate us from criticizing THE SCARED PLAN. WE WERE THE ONES BEING THREATENED! Was someone sending the message that we would be physically harmed? We didn't know.

We sent the video to the GCDN with a note saying, "Have you seen this? Don't know who put this together." We also sent it to City Council. The email to Council was inadvertently sent without the intended note, which would have read, "Look what someone just sent us!" Our first mistake was to think that Council would have any concern that someone was trying to intimidate us and corrupt the process.

At tonight's Council meeting, as public comment began, dozens of people had organized to support THE SACRED PLAN, and to accuse

its opponents of racism. What a surprise! There were comments on “getting the people home”, but eventually the discussion came back to getting our hands on THE MONEY!

The big surprise came when many of the GHA advocates claimed that they were intimidated by the rap video.

Why is a rap video intimidating or threatening to Black people?

Where did they all get this video?

They did NOT get it from us!

Let’s be clear. The GOGP did not make the video, and did not circulate the video, but in the BIZARRO world of Galveston politics, we were supposedly trying to intimidate people with it. Explain how that works.

Amazingly, the producer of the video just happened to show up to testify that it was all just an act; he’s not really a gangbanger.

Who set that up?

How did the GHA advocates know who made the video?

We sure didn’t!

Anyone who was at that Council meeting, or watching it, knows who was doing the intimidation.

If the GOGP only sent it to the GCDN, and the City Council, then how did it get to all of the GHA supporters? We don’t have their email addresses.

We hope the media will ask everyone on City Council if they know how the video got to dozens of GHA advocates. It’s a mystery to us.

I guess we should have contacted the FBI about the threat instead of sending it to our elected leaders.

The final act on the rap video occurred when Councilman Woods asked the Mayor who sent the video to Council, and they both chuckled that it was that guy, Stanowski. They just forgot to ask the question that mattered; who sent OUR PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE TO CITY COUNCIL to all the GHA supporters.

After hours of wave after wave of self-righteous indignation, the City Council could not help but to vote to recreate the kind of hyper-segregated concentration of low-income minorities that Star Parker calls “Uncle Sam’s Plantation”. Congratulations City Council!

The purveyors of fear ruled the day!

In the end, it wasn’t about what was best for the people; it was all about the money!

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