

OFFICIAL EXHIBITS

STATE OF INDIANA

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

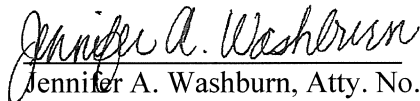
PETITION OF CWA AUTHORITY, INC.)
FOR (1) AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS)
RATES AND CHARGES FOR)
WASTEWATER UTILITY SERVICE IN)
THREE PHASES AND APPROVAL OF NEW) CAUSE NO. 45151
SCHEDULES OF RATES AND CHARGES)
APPLICABLE THERETO; (2) APPROVAL)
OF A LOW-INCOME CUSTOMER)
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; AND (3))
APPROVAL OF CERTAIN CHANGES TO)
ITS GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS)
FOR WASTEWATER SERVICE.)

IURC
INTERVENOR'S - CAC
INCAA
EXHIBIT NO. 1
5-9-19
DATE REPORTER

SUBMISSION OF DIRECT TESTIMONY AND ATTACHMENTS OF CAC AND INCAA

Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, Inc. ("CAC"), and Indiana Community Action Association ("INCAA") respectfully submit the direct testimony and attachments of Kerwin L. Olson in the above referenced Cause to the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer A. Washburn, Atty. No. 30462-49
Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, Inc.
1915 W. 18th Street, Suite C
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202
Phone: (317) 735-7764
Fax: (317) 290-3700
jwashburn@citact.org

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

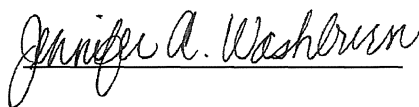
The undersigned counsel hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing document was served via electronic mail, this 25th day of January, 2019:

Michael E. Allen
Lauren R. Toppen
Korlon Kilpatrick
CWA Authority, Inc.
2020 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202
mallen@citizensenergygroup.com
ltoppen@citizensenergygroup.com
kkilpatrick@citizensenergygroup.com

Michael B. Cracraft
Steven W. Krohne
Ice Miller LLP
One American Square, Suite 2900
Indianapolis, IN 46282-0200
michael.cracraft@icemiller.com
steven.krohne@icemiller.com

Daniel Levay
Lorraine Hitz-Bradley
Jason Haas
Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor
Office of Utility Consumer Counselor
115 West Washington Street, Suite 1500
South
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
dlevay@oucc.in.gov
lhitzbradley@oucc.in.gov
thaas@oucc.in.gov
infomgt@oucc.in.gov

Joseph Rompala
Anne Becker
Aaron Schmoll
Lewis & Kappes, P.C.
One American Square, Suite 2500
Indianapolis, IN 46282
jrompala@lewis-kappes.com
abecker@lewis-kappes.com
aschmoll@lewis-kappes.com



Jennifer A. Washburn

STATE OF INDIANA

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

PETITION OF CWA AUTHORITY, INC.)
FOR (1) AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS)
RATES AND CHARGES FOR)
WASTEWATER UTILITY SERVICE IN) CAUSE NO. 45151
THREE PHASES AND APPROVAL OF)
NEW SCHEDULES OF RATES AND)
CHARGES APPLICABLE THERETO; (2))
APPROVAL OF A LOW-INCOME)
CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM;)
AND (3) APPROVAL OF CERTAIN)
CHANGES TO ITS GENERAL TERMS AND)
CONDITIONS FOR WASTEWATER)
SERVICE.

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF KERWIN OLSON ON BEHALF OF
CITIZENS ACTION COALITION OF INDIANA AND INDIANA COMMUNITY
ACTION ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 25, 2019

1 **Q. Please state your name, position and business address.**

2 **A.** My name is Kerwin L. Olson, and I am the Executive Director of Citizens Action
3 Coalition of Indiana, Inc. ("CAC"). My business address is 1915 West 18th Street, Suite
4 C, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202.

5 **Q. Please describe your current responsibilities.**

6 **A.** I have served as CAC's Executive Director since June of 2011. I am CAC's chief public
7 policy spokesperson and its chief operating officer and am responsible to its Board of
8 Directors for the overall program and operations management of the organization. Major
9 priorities are established by CAC's membership at its annual meetings and broad policies
10 are adopted by the Board of Directors at its quarterly meetings. I provide development,
11 supervision and coordination for the implementation of policies and programs based on
12 these priorities. My current responsibilities also include: issue and policy research;
13 lobbying at the Statehouse; legislative outreach and education; community and media
14 outreach; writing press releases, guest columns and op-ed columns; and community and
15 member organizing. I am CAC's representative on the board of the Indiana Coalition for
16 Human Services and for other organizations and committees. I also supervise CAC's
17 participation on numerous energy efficiency and demand-side-management collaborative
18 oversight boards.

19 **Q. Please briefly summarize your prior employment and educational background.**

20 **A.** I studied American History at the University of Chicago from 1986 to 1989. I joined the
21 staff at CAC twelve years ago in 2005, working in member outreach. In 2006, I became
22 CAC's Public Outreach Coordinator, served briefly as its Phone Canvass Director in
23 early 2008, and then served as CAC's Program Director starting at the beginning of April

1 of 2008. My responsibilities included performing (and supervising others who
2 performed) research on energy and regulatory issues. I have been CAC's primary
3 legislative liaison since 2008. Since June of 2011, I have served as the Executive
4 Director of CAC. I have attended numerous workshops and seminars on energy, energy
5 efficiency, low-income and consumer issues, renewable energy, coal, coal gasification,
6 carbon capture and sequestration, biomass and bio-fuels, and nuclear energy.

7 **Q. Have you previously filed testimony before the Indiana Utility Regulatory**
8 **Commission ("IURC" or "Commission")?**

9 **A.** Yes. I have testified before the Commission numerous times, including in Cause Nos.
10 43114 IGCC 4S1, 43114 IGCC 5, 43114 IGCC 6, 43114 IGCC 7, 43114 IGCC 9, 43114
11 IGCC 4S3, 43114 IGCC 15, 43653 (Duke CCS Study), 43669 (Gas Universal Service
12 Fund programs), 43839 (SIGECO rates), 43912 (NIPSCO DSM), 43922 (NIPSCO Feed-
13 In Tariff), 43967 (Indiana Gasification), 44067 (SIGECO Dense Pack), 44310 (Self-
14 Direct Investigation), 44339 (IPL CCGT and HSS Refueling), 44393 (NIPSCO Feed-In
15 Tariff 2.0), 44441 (Implementation of SEA 340), 44478 (IPL EV), 44720 (Duke TDSIC),
16 44765 (Duke CCR), 44872 (NIPSCO CCR), 44910 (Vectren TDSIC), 44963 (DEI AMI
17 Opt Out Tariff), 44945 (IPL 2018-2020 DSM), 44967 (I&M rate case), 44988 (NIPSCO-
18 GAS rate case), 45011 (NIPSCO-ELECTRIC DSM), 45012 (NIPSCO-GAS DSM),
19 45029 (IPL rate case), 45052 (Vectren Gas CCGT CPCN), 45086 (Vectren Solar), 45142
20 (Indiana-American rate case), and 45145 (Duke C&I solar leasing). In addition, my
21 duties require me to testify before several of the Indiana General Assembly's House and
22 Senate committees and participate in panel discussions in public forums.

1 **Q. On whose behalf are you testifying?**

2 **A.** I am testifying on behalf of CAC and Indiana Community Action Association
3 (“INCAA”).

4 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?**

5 **A.** My testimony supports Petitioner CWA Authority, Inc.’s (“CWA” or “The Company”)
6 request to implement the Low-Income Customer Assistance Program.

7 **Q. What did you do to prepare yourself to testify for this proceeding?**

8 **A.** I reviewed most of the pre-filed direct testimony of CWA witnesses and CWA data
9 request responses. I discussed the proposal with members of the community.

10 **Q. Please describe the low-income pilot program that the Company is proposing in this**
11 **case.**

12 **A.** CWA is proposing a Low-Income Customer Assistance Program (“LICAP”) for its
13 service territory. The proposed program has two components: (1) a rate discount for
14 eligible customers; and (2) an assistance fund to help eligible customers with, among
15 other things, infrastructure improvements that have bill impacts.

16 **Q. Do CAC and INCAA support the Company’s request for the LICAP?**

17 **A.** Absolutely, yes. We applaud the Company for their proposal, and we are appreciative of
18 the leadership the Company is displaying through its recognition of the importance of
19 affordability in the community it serves. We offer ourselves as a resource to help make
20 the program a success.

21 **Q. Is the Company proposing to recover the costs associated with the LICAP?**

22 **A.** Yes. The Company is proposing to recover the costs of the program from customers
23 receiving service through sewer rates 1, 2 and 5 with a flat monthly charge of 79 cents.

1 **Q. Do CAC and INCAA support the Company's request for cost recovery?**

2 **A.** Yes. We have long advocated for ratepayer funded low-income assistance programs.
3 An assistance program with the stated intent of making monthly bills more affordable for
4 low-income customers needs certainty with respect to the funding of the program. In
5 order to achieve that goal, an assistance program requires the permanency that
6 accompanies a Commission-approved and rate-based tariff which does not rely on
7 voluntary contributions from others, including shareholders. Affordability programs
8 cannot be designed, implemented, and managed without reliable and predictable funding.

9 For crisis programs, however, it is completely appropriate to utilize voluntarily
10 contributions from ratepayers, shareholders, and others to provide the funding to address
11 the immediate needs of low-income customers facing disconnection or other financial
12 crises.

13 But for programs like this with the laudable goal of creating affordable monthly
14 bills for low-income households, they simply would not be sustainable and would likely
15 not succeed absent the certainty of a dedicated stream of ratepayer funding.

16 Furthermore, we believe that 79 cents is a small price to pay to help lift up a
17 community in need and do all that we can to ensure that all customers, regardless of their
18 means, have access to affordable essential human services which are a necessity for
19 quality of life.

20 **Q. Is the Company's proposed LICAP consistent with the policy of the State of**
21 **Indiana?**

22 **A.** Yes. The General Assembly adopted a policy statement in Senate Enrolled Act ("SEA")
23 383 during the 2016 session of the legislature, which was signed into law by then

Governor Mike Pence on March 22, 2016. SEA 383 passed the Senate¹ by a vote of 43-1 and passed the House² unanimously with a vote of 93-0. The policy statement in SEA 383 specifically reads:

The general assembly declares that it is the continuing policy of the state, in cooperation with local governments and other concerned public and private organizations, **to use all practicable means and measures, including financial and technical assistance**, in a manner calculated to create and maintain conditions under which utilities plan for and invest in infrastructure necessary for operation and maintenance **while protecting the affordability of utility services for present and future generations of Indiana citizens.**³

(emphasis added)

This language clearly states the legislature's desire that utility service be affordable now and into the future, and that "all practicable means and measures" be used to achieve that, including "financial...assistance".

Again, we applaud the Company for this proposal and appreciate that the Company is taking the stated policy goal of our State to heart.

Q. Is the Company's proposed LICAP consistent with the goals and priorities of Mayor Joe Hogsett for the City of Indianapolis?

A. Yes, absolutely. In CWA's Response to OUCC Data Request 3.14(b) (included as Attachment KLO-1), the Company provided an article from the Indianapolis Business Journal with the title "Mayor Joe Hogsett tries to chip away at poverty." Mayor Hogsett is quoted in the article as saying:

"What we face in Indianapolis today is multi-generational poverty," Hogsett said. "It's really an issue that has eluded city leadership for the better part of maybe 25 years or more. Never until this generation have we

¹ <http://iga.in.gov/legislative/2016/bills/senate/383#document-9f20754a>

² <http://iga.in.gov/legislative/2016/bills/senate/383#document-2a14add>

³ <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2016/bills/senate/383>

1 really tried to meaningfully address and help Indianapolis change the
2 trajectory.”

3
4 The article continues and describes some of the efforts the City has undertaken to tackle
5 the extreme poverty in the City of Indianapolis. The Mayor commented on those efforts:

6 “When you add them together, it’s poverty ... what they’re attempting to
7 address,” Hogsett said. “The common denominator in all of them is trying
8 to uplift people in Marion County to live a better quality of life.”
9

10 Attachment KLO-1. Mayor Hogsett has committed to doing what he can in his capacity
11 as Mayor to fight poverty and lift up those in need. The Company is acting as a partner to
12 the City and also doing their part in the fight against poverty in the City through the
13 proposed LICAP.

14 Not only is the Company’s proposal consistent with the policy adopted at the
15 Indiana Statehouse by the Indiana General Assembly and signed into law by the
16 Governor, it is also consistent with the stated goals of City Hall and the Office of the
17 Mayor. Again, we applaud the Company for doing their part for the community they
18 serve. The proposed LICAP is absolutely in the public interest and consistent with the
19 stated goals and policy of elected officials at both the local and State level.

20 **Q. Is there legislative authorization for the Company’s proposed cost recovery?**

21 **A.** Yes. In the 2017 session of the General Assembly, the legislature included identical
22 language in both Senate Enrolled Act 416⁴ and House Enrolled Act 1519⁵ which allow
23 water and wastewater utilities to request assistance programs for income qualified
24 customers and authorize the Commission to approve those programs. SEA 416 passed
25 the Senate⁶ by a vote of 46-2 and passed the House⁷ by a unanimous vote of 97-0. SEA

⁴ <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2017/bills/senate/416>

⁵ <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2017/bills/house/1519>

⁶ <http://iga.in.gov/legislative/2017/bills/senate/416#document-7d74935a>

1519 passed both chambers by unanimous votes. The tally was 48-0 in the Senate⁸ and 82-0 in the House.⁹ Specifically, the authorizing language reads:

IC 8-1-2-46 Classification of service; **commission may allow water or wastewater utility to establish customer assistance program**

Sec. 46. (a) The commission shall provide for a comprehensive classification of such service for each public utility and such classification may take into account the quantity used, the time when used, the purpose for which used and other reasonable consideration. Each public utility is required to conform its schedules of rates, tolls, and charges to such classification.

(b) As used in this section, "water or wastewater utility" means:

(1) a public utility, as defined in section 1(a) of this chapter;

(2) a municipally owned utility, as defined in section 1(h) of this chapter;

or

(3) a not-for-profit utility, as defined in section 125(a) of this chapter; that provides water or wastewater service to the public.

(c) Upon request by a water or wastewater utility in a general rate case, **the commission may allow, but may not require, a water or wastewater utility to establish a customer assistance program that:**

(1) uses state or federal infrastructure funds; or

(2) provides financial relief to residential customers who qualify for income related assistance.

A customer assistance program established under this subsection that affects rates and charges for service is not discriminatory for purposes of this chapter or any other law regulating rates and charges for service. In considering whether to approve a water or wastewater utility's proposed customer assistance program, the commission shall determine that a customer assistance program established under this subsection furthers the interests set forth in section 0.5 of this chapter and is in the public interest.

(d) The commission shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to implement this section.

(emphasis added)

Q. Does the human services community support the Company's proposed LICAP beyond the support expressed in this testimony from CAC and INCAA?

A. Yes. CAC and INCAA respectfully submit the attached letter signed by the Indiana Coalition for Human Services, the Marion County Commission on Youth ("MCCOY"), Sacred Heart Catholic Church, and St. Patrick Catholic Church, expressing their support

⁷ <http://iga.in.gov/legislative/2017/bills/senate/416#document-5f30729a>

⁸ <http://iga.in.gov/legislative/2017/bills/house/1519#document-9f0fac00>

⁹ <http://iga.in.gov/legislative/2017/bills/house/1519#document-4883b216>

1 of the LICAP and urging the Commission to approve the programs. This letter is included
2 as Attachment KLO-2.

3 **Q. What are your recommendations?**


4 **A.** I recommend and urge the Commission to approve the Company's proposed LICAP.

5 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

6 **A.** Yes.

VERIFICATION

I, Kerwin Olson, affirm under penalties of perjury that the foregoing representations are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.



Kerwin Olson

January 25, 2019

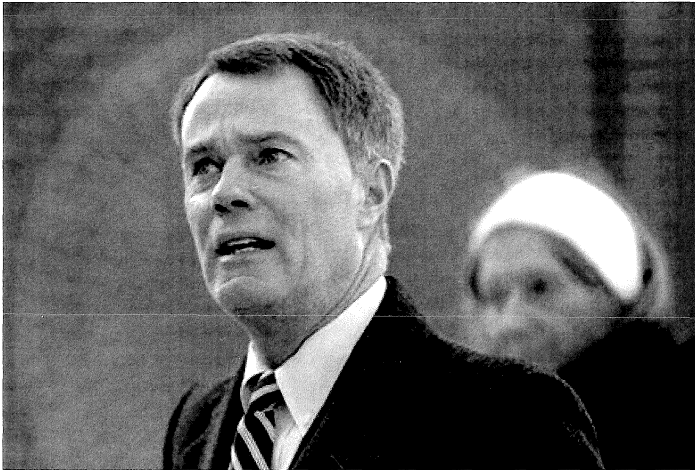
Date

ATTACHMENT KLO-1



Mayor Joe Hogsett tries to chip away at poverty

Hayleigh Colombo
August 10, 2018



On the bitter cold November night in 2014 at Kennedy-King Park when Joe Hogsett announced he was running for mayor of Indianapolis, he said the scourge of childhood poverty in Indianapolis was weighing on his mind.

The new mayor mentioned it again on inauguration day in 2016, saying childhood poverty was one of the city's top three challenges—along with the budget deficit and increasing crime—that he aimed to solve.

"There is, in this city, in our city, a large and identifiable population of children who have been all but forgotten," Hogsett told a room of dignitaries at Hilbert Circle Theatre.

**ONE CITY,
WORLDS APART**

"One-third of children in Indianapolis today are born into poverty and most never escape. Every day, they attend schools that are not able to fairly or adequately educate them. In the evening, they return home to neighborhoods plagued by blight and crime. And most nights, they go to bed hungry. These are our children."

But more than halfway through his term, what has Hogsett been able to accomplish—or even just tackle—when it comes to alleviating the scourge?

There are hits and misses—and, maybe more important, missed opportunities—some observers say. But everyone, including Hogsett, agrees on one thing: There's much more to do.

Hogsett, who has not announced whether he will seek re-election next year, told IBJ his administration has been "very intentional and purposeful" in trying to address the fact that more than 20 percent of Indianapolis residents—and a third of Indianapolis children—live in poverty.

"What we face in Indianapolis today is multi-generational poverty," Hogsett said. "It's really an issue that has eluded city leadership for the better part of maybe 25 years or more. Never until this generation have we really tried to meaningfully address and help Indianapolis change the trajectory."

Some of the city's efforts are concrete. Hogsett's administration has so far created 400 new units of housing for people experiencing homelessness, chipping into the waitlist more than 1,300 people long.

Other efforts are less visible to the public, such as a "working group on poverty and education" that member and IUPUI researcher Breanca Merritt says is about how to coordinate resources and remove barriers to strengthen poverty alleviation for schoolchildren.

The mayor says other ongoing initiatives might not have a poverty or inequality label, but that's ultimately what they're about.

There's Hogsett's summer jobs program for teens and young adults, a preschool program that has spent \$12.6 million over three years to help low-income children, and an effort to get more people access to college scholarships.

"When you add them together, it's poverty ... what they're attempting to address," Hogsett said. "The common denominator in all of them is trying to uplift people in Marion County to live a better quality of life."

Other opportunities

But the programs are so young, it's difficult to measure their impacts.

And critics say the mayor has passed up other opportunities to help the city's poorest residents.

He did not push voters to approve a tax increase to fund an expansion of the IndyGo bus system, choosing to stay on the sideline.

Hogsett told reporters recently that his administration would not take an "official position" on a proposed Indianapolis Public Schools referendum that would raise \$220 million from taxpayers over eight years. That's despite the district's decision to significantly reduce its proposal under pressure from Indy Chamber, which has now endorsed it.



Sullivan

IPS board member Mary Ann Sullivan said she hopes Hogsett "can be persuaded to back this investment in Indy's future."

"Given the mayor's strong commitment to developing all neighborhoods as great places to live, work and play, I know he understands the importance of access to high-quality, public schools in every neighborhood," she said. "I am hopeful that he will support our efforts to build on the work he is doing at the grass-roots level."

Meanwhile, conversation about increased poverty and income disparities seems to have reached a fever pitch among civic and business organizations.

The Indy Chamber and the Central Indiana Community Foundation are working on new efforts to study and attack poverty.

And the United Way of Central Indiana's new Great Families 2020 campaign, designed to tackle rising inequality, will leverage \$20 million into poverty-relief and family-stabilization efforts in a two-generation approach to help both children and their impoverished parents, said CEO Ann Murtlow.



Murtlow

"There is no doubt the issues of poverty are extremely complex," Murtlow said. "It is something we all need to own. There are a significant number of families in our community that are living one step away from poverty or one check or one little bump in the road. Poverty affects adults and children differently, but the effects on one magnify the effects on another."

Asked whether Hogsett has done enough on poverty alleviation, Murtlow simply said, "The mayor is supportive of our work."

Protecting the middle, too

Progress on poverty?

Attachment KLO-1

Mayor Joe Hogsett vowed to tackle poverty the night he announced his run for mayor, and again when he was sworn into the office. Here are the programs his administration says could help low-income residents.

Jobs for teens, young adults

Project Indy offers summer, part-time and full-time jobs for Marion County residents ages 16 to 24. It's funded by a \$2 million federal grant, and corporate and community donors. **McDonald's**, a key supporter, sought to hire 1,000 employees through the program this year.

Expanding access to college

Hogsett this year launched **Indy Achieves** to increase the number of students who get state and federal scholarships—and to pay for other costs that prevent students from staying in college.

Goals for the program's first five years:

- ▶ 30,000 more eighth-graders enrolled in the state **21st Century Scholars** program.
- ▶ 60,000 more high school seniors completing the **FAFSA** on time.
- ▶ 1,500 students awarded **IUPUI** and **Ivy Tech Community College** scholarships
- ▶ 3,500 students on the verge of **dropping out** of those two colleges awarded completion grants.

Affordable, homeless housing

In 2017, the Hogsett administration reported spending nearly **\$2 million** rehabilitating vacant and abandoned houses and building houses on vacant lots. **Twenty-six homes** are slated to be sold to low- or moderate-income buyers. Nearly \$1.5 million assisted **70 low-income homeowners** with repairs.

The city invested **\$1.9 million** to complete **Illinois Street Senior Apartments** and **Glenmoor Apartments**, affordable-housing projects in neglected buildings.

The city received from businesses and not-for-profits **400 units of housing** in buildings across the county for homeless residents, to be offered based on priority of need.

Redeveloping industrial sites

Hogsett said his administration is working in struggling neighborhoods like **Sherman Park** and **Twin Aire** to bring jobs back to neighborhoods where thousands used to work. **Twin Aire**, the site of the former **Citizens Energy** coke plant, will house the new **\$571 million criminal justice center**.

At the old **RCA/Thompson electronics** plant in **Sherman Park**, **\$500,000** in **federal planning grants**, along with city demolition and remediation, is aimed at promoting development.

Community development

Hogsett launched **Lift Indy** in 2017, to target federal funding at specific neighborhoods, with the goal of supporting economic development, affordable housing, infrastructure and amenities.

The **Monon16** area, which the city defines as the area surrounding the **Monon Trail** at **East 16th Street**, was the first designated neighborhood and is slated to receive **\$4.5 million** over three years.

Source: IBJ research

The challenges for mayors are growing larger, said Marshawn Wolley, director of community engagement and strategic initiatives at IUPUI's School of Public and Environmental Affairs.

Attachment KLO-1

Mayors now are required to tackle "not just poverty," he said, "but increasingly, the middle class and how to keep people from falling out of the middle class."



Wolley

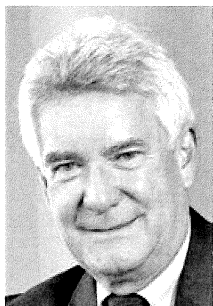
Take Carrier Corp.'s 2016 announcement that it would close an Indianapolis factory and move the work to Mexico, eliminating hundreds of local jobs. Hogsett called it a "body blow."

And it's the kind of change he believes has put the American dream "at risk."

"Not just in Indianapolis—it's at risk all over the country today, for reasons that are common to Indianapolis," Hogsett said. "In too many instances in Indianapolis today, generations are passing off a life that is actually more marginal than the life the parents or grandparents inherited."

But can a mayor actually make a big dent in poverty in just a four-year term or two? Experts said it's hard for a public official to move that needle.

"It's tricky in Indiana, particularly because the mayor isn't necessarily given all the tools they'd like to deal with the issue," said Paul Helmke, a former three-term mayor of Fort Wayne and current director of the Civic Leaders Center at Indiana University. "What the mayor does have is the bully pulpit to push to try to make things better."



Helmke

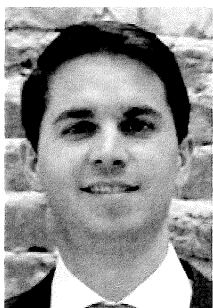
Hogsett said his decision to talk about poverty during the 2015 mayoral campaign was politically risky. The subject, he said, has traditionally been seen as passe in politics.

Hogsett described the conventional wisdom as: "Whatever you do, don't talk about poverty."

"People don't want to hear that your community [is], or that they are, impoverished," Hogsett said. "I don't want to sound like a 12-step program, but you can't meaningfully address a problem until you admit you have it."

But Joe Parilla, a fellow at Brookings Institute's Metropolitan Policy Program, said Hogsett is far from the only mayor talking about poverty.

"Other big-city mayors have made the inequality effort their platform," Parilla said. "If you think about Mayor DeBlasio in New York or Mayor Garcetti in L.A., they are extremely aggressive in talking about that as an agenda. I think it does make a difference in setting the terms of the debate."



Parilla

Getting things done

Attachment KLO-1

Then there's the matter of getting things done.

The roadblocks are numerous, Helmke said: White flight in past decades to the suburbs has eroded cities' tax base and stretched and tightened city budgets, limiting their ability to invest.

Hogsett said the city's tight budget has made investment in poverty relief tricky during the first years of his administration—but that having a balanced budget “allows you to start making investments in things you would not otherwise have been able to.”

“I don't want you to read too much into that,” Hogsett told IBJ. “But ... we may be in a position to begin the process of being able to make investments that previously just would not have been responsible or possible to have been made.”

And Indiana cities are required to work within the context of what the Legislature allows.

“What happens is, people turn to the mayor and say, ‘Why haven't you done something?’” Helmke said. “But where are the tools? A lot of times, it's the state Legislature that has more of that control.”

Parilla said Indianapolis is facing a dynamic similar to other “blue cities in red states.”

About One City, Worlds Apart

This is the latest story in an occasional series examining the growing gap between the affluent and poor in Indianapolis and ways to address the problem. Read the earlier stories [here](#).

A key tool he said could lessen inequality is one Indiana's Republican-majority Legislature took back in 2011: the ability of cities to raise the local minimum wage.

“It's limiting,” Parilla said. “But I don't think it means that this issue is not moveable. Inequality is kind of a pervasive global phenomenon. It can be ameliorated or turbocharged based on local actions, on the margins.”

Despite barriers, Wolley said, the “mayor of Indianapolis has an opportunity to have a legislative agenda at the Statehouse.”

“Advocating for increased poverty relief or poverty-alleviating policies is another tool the mayor can use in this situation,” Wolley said. “I've seen some movement on consensus around food deserts between urban communities and rural communities because they're facing some of the same challenges. That probably becomes the best approach, or maybe the only available approach.”

Working in neighborhoods

Helmke said it's also important for mayors to actively work with community groups to explore how to best leverage the limited dollars they receive in poorer neighborhoods. That could mean deploying the money to pay for “new streetlights, infrastructure improvement, doing a better job of picking up the garbage, cleaning the parks, working to deal with abandoned housing,” Helmke said.

“Those sometimes seem like minor points, but they go a long way toward strengthening the community and making it more likely a family will do well and be more successful,” Helmke said.



Fears

Gina Fears, a neighborhood leader in Martindale-Brightwood, which has the city's highest poverty rate, said Hogsett came to the neighborhood shortly after he was sworn in, which was appreciated.

But she said she has been trying to get a meeting with him recently to show him the new quality-of-life plan neighborhood residents created.

“When can you come and sit down and go through the plan with us?” Fears said she's asked. “This area is surviving on just the spirit of the people. Let's go through the plan and let's hear the commitment.”

Hogsett was also in the neighborhood in June 2017 for longtime resident Jimmie Luton's 100th birthday party, giving a speech to proclaim Jimmie Luton Day. Fears said Hogsett needs to think about the quality of the neighborhood “if God blesses her to live 105 years.”

11/2/2018

Mayor Joe Hogsett tries to chip away at poverty | 2018-08-10 | Indianapolis Business Journal | IBJ.com | Home Browser Title Tagline

"I think that's amazing that he respected her in that way, that he honored her in that way," Fears said. "I applaud that, and that is necessary. The other necessary thing is [for] that area to be on the mayor's radar. Let's do the things that need to be done." • Attachment KLO-1

ATTACHMENT KLO-2

January 25, 2019

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
Attention: Chairman James Huston
101 W. Washington Street, Suite 1500E
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Chairman Huston:

The undersigned are local organizations committed to helping and improving the lives of our community's most vulnerable populations. We are writing in support of the low-income program proposed by CWA Authority, Inc. ("CWA"), an affiliate of Citizens Energy Group ("Citizens"), for their water and wastewater customers.

Poverty continues to increase in Marion County, and as wages remain stagnant, people cannot keep up with soaring utility bills. According to a 2016 report by United Way, 18% of Indianapolis residents live in poverty, whereas 47% of Marion County households are unable to meet their basic needs. Equally troubling, 30% of children in Indianapolis live in poverty. Furthermore, a Connect2Help211 report from October 1st 2017 to September 30th 2018 concluded, yet again, that the overwhelming reason people called was for utility assistance.

Citizens has acknowledged this disturbing trend, and by their own analysis 42,000 of their wastewater customers likely qualify for assistance.

We support Citizens proposed low-income program that looks to address and help alleviate the difficult financial position tens of thousands of households in Marion County currently find themselves in. In part, the program would (1) provide a much needed discount on a customer's monthly bill based on level of need, and (2) it would establish a wastewater infrastructure fund that would assist customers in plumbing repairs while also promoting and implementing water conservation efforts that can help reduce a customer's bill.

Citizens proposed low-income program, if approved, would provide much needed relief to all of Citizens customers in their service territory trying to get by on low or fixed incomes, including the 47% of households in Marion County who are struggling to meet their basic needs. It would allow them to focus their attention on other important areas of concern including but not limited to food, clothing, healthcare, and housing.

Ratepayers need this relief, and the undersigned parties concerned with the welfare of Marion County's residents support and implore the IURC to approve this much needed low-income program proposed by Citizens.

We ask these comments be included in **Cause No. 45151**. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Emily Weikert Bryant, President
Indiana Coalition for Human Services

John Brandon, President
MCCOY Inc.

Rev. Dennis Schafer, O.F.M.
Rev. Larry Janezic, O.F.M.
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
St. Patrick Catholic Church