

The PGA of America  
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PGA Championships  
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Senior PGA  
Tournament Director  
Golf Club at Harbor Shores  
400 Klock Rd.  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

May 9, 2012

To the 2012 Senior PGA Tournament Director and The PGA of America:

As concerned citizens of Benton Harbor, Michigan, with support from our allies around the world, we protest the exploitation of the community of Benton Harbor by Harbor Shores Golf Club, Kitchen Aid/Whirlpool, and the PGA of America. The Harbor Shores development came about only through the undermining of democracy, political pressure on public agencies, the theft of public land for private profit, the destruction of rare ecologies, the theft of water from the public, and the continuing destruction of the very fabric of the predominantly Black community of Benton Harbor, which is already politically disenfranchised and economically impoverished.

In April 2010, the City Commissioners of Benton Harbor passed a resolution withdrawing support from the Harbor Shores development, but the Senior PGA chose to ignore this voice of a democratically-elected body and proceed with the upcoming tournament. We demand cancellation of the tournament in Benton Harbor. Failing that, we hereby make the following demands on the 2012 Senior PGA:

- 1) Transfer 25% of the 2012 Senior PGA profits to the citizens of Benton Harbor as partial rightful compensation for stolen land and water and for the purpose of meeting budget deficits and building **affordable** housing for the people of Benton Harbor.
- 2) Distribute the attached press kit to all 2012 Senior PGA participants. We call on each of them to hear the grievances of the people of Benton Harbor and either withdraw from the tournament or show their support for the demonstration planned for May 23-27, **Occupy the PGA**.
- 3) Acknowledge in an announcement at the Senior PGA event that the people of Benton Harbor have been exploited in numerous ways, detailed in the attached information, including the **theft of public park land for private profit** and the complete **undermining of democratic structures** by the installation of an Emergency Financial Manager.

A failure to address these grievances and demands publicly at the event will reflect the collusion of the Senior PGA with the ongoing hypocrisy and exploitation of Harbor Shores and Whirlpool Corp. The PGA of America and the Senior PGA has an opportunity to do the right thing and stand with the people of Benton Harbor. We are tired of being lied to, and are standing up and fighting back. This is why we will **Occupy the PGA**.

If Kitchen Aid/Whirlpool continue to have their way, the result will be the gentrification of Benton Harbor until the majority of its current Black residents will be forced to leave and the city will become yet another vacation playground for those privileged by wealth and race. It will destroy the fabric of an entire community. Benton Harbor residents need jobs with a living wage, affordable housing, political self-determination, true democracy, justice, freedom, park lands, and a future for their children. Everyone deserves these human rights, not just the elite.

Sincerely,

Occupy the PGA 2012  
Benton Harbor, Michigan