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GARY DISCUSSES ACTIVATION OF PORT AUTHORITY

Gary, Indiana-The Gary Common Council will review the Mayor's appointment to the Gary Port Authority at the Council Finance meeting on Tuesday, July 25, 2017. Gary Municipal Code 10-Section 2-1469 et. seq. provides for the establishment of a Port Authority. The code also outlines the process for making appointments as well as criteria for appointees. Mayor Freeman-Wilson has identified Gary City Councilman Ron Brewer, Lake County Commissioner Kyle Allen, Delta Walker, Ken Stalling, and Michael Chirich as members of the Port Authority.

In addition to discussing the appointees, the administration will present the rationale for activating the Port Authority. While the ordinance has existed since 1982, the city has been motivated by inquiries related to stevedore operations in Gary as well as the realization that all of Gary would be considered a port. The Mayor said, "As we look to additional development opportunities to grow and create businesses in the city of Gary, our research has identified the activation of the Port Authority as a valuable tool. While this is not a port in the traditional sense, the authority may certainly determine the creation of a traditional port to be in the city's best interest."

The Port Authority will additionally develop detailed provisions by which the authority shall be governed and will oversee development, construction and operations of port-related facilities; as well, subsequent agreement and revenues. Ports located in the cities have been a tremendous revenue source for cities through tax revenue alone. Many of the goods and foods we use every day are in and out of our communities through global trade via ports. Additionally, ports attract business development, create jobs and a variety of skilled trades.

The administration looks forward to providing details to the Finance Committee and members of the public. The meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.