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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 16, 2018

GARY: ONE OF 10 WINNERS OF THE CITIES OF SERVICE LOVE YOUR BLOCK GRANT

Gary, Indiana-The City of Gary is the winner of a Cities of Services Grant that will support the city's continued efforts to clean up and spruce up in city neighborhoods. The city was one of 10 winning cities.

Cities of Service, a nonprofit national organization announced today that the City of Gary is one of 10 U.S. cities to receive a \$25,000 "Love Your Block" Award designed to assist local government in engaging residents in neighborhood revitalization. The grant also comes with two years of technical assistance and two AmeriCorps VISTA members who will work at City Hall to increase community awareness.

Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson said, "We are excited to receive the Love Your Block grant from Cities of Service. This grant will enhance our efforts to engage our residents in community service and falls right in line with our goals to improve our neighborhoods block by block."

Over the past six years, the City has been working diligently to decrease blight across the city through its blight elimination programs: 5x5x5 clean ups, Community clean ups, Vacant Lot and Grass Cutting. In the recent years, the city instituted Blight Buster Days and Operation High Impact. Additionally, the city through the Mayor's Office of Constituent Services (MOCS) works to assist block clubs, neighborhood and community groups and others in organized clean ups in the city.

The City will use the Love Your Block grant to assist block clubs with basic supplies for neighborhood clean ups and other projects. The MOCS will work to put clean up kits together. The MOCS is always looking for businesses, organizations and volunteers to support the city's cleanup efforts. Those interested may call 219-881-4815 or to volunteer go to <http://garyin.us/volunteer/>. For block club information contact the Urban League of Northwest Indiana at 219-887-9621.

Cities of Service City Hall AmeriCorps VISTA Love Your Block is made possible with support from Bloomberg Philanthropies and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). The Mayor expressed thanks to Cities of Services, Bloomberg Philanthropies and CNCS.

See Cities of Service Press Release attached. <https://citiesofservice.org/press-release/cities-service-awards-250000-cities-neighborhood-revitalization/>

-30-