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**MAYOR KAREN FREEMAN-WILSON RELEASES STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF
LONGTIME GARY LAKE COUNTY COUNCILWOMAN**

Gary, Indiana-Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson released this statement today on the passing of longtime Lake County Councilwoman, Elsie Franklin.

"I am so sorry to hear about the passing of Elsie Franklin. I am sending condolences to her family and friends. I was honored to know her and work with her. She served as General Services Director under Mayor Barnes, Vice Chair of the Lake County Democratic Party and Chair is the Gary Precinct Organization. Her passing will leave a void in the political fabric of our community that will be hard to fill. I will always cherish our friendship and our last conversations as she still worked to encourage this community with everything she had."

Reports confirm Elsie Franklin died early Monday morning.

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