Karen Freeman-Wilson	LaLosa Dent Burns
Mayor	Director of Communications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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MAYOR FREEMAN-WILSON ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION OF DIRECTOR OF REDEVELOPMENT; INTRODUCES NEW DIRECTOR

Gary, Indiana – Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson today announced the resignation of Joe van Dyk, Executive Director of the Gary Redevelopment Commission, effective May 9, 2019. Van Dyk has served the City of Gary since 2012, not only as Executive Director of the Redevelopment Commission, but also as Director of Planning and Zoning Director.

During his tenure, van Dyk managed economic development initiatives, such as the relocation of Alliance Steel to Gary; led the Gary parcel survey; the Gary Counts initiative; helped oversee the city's blight elimination program, including the Sheraton Hotel demolition and Hardest Hit Fund program; and led the Gary Comprehensive Plan update.

"Joe has been an integral part of Team Gary for the past seven years," stated Mayor Freeman-Wilson. "He has been extremely effective in managing a number of economic development initiatives. As he leaves the city to experience new opportunities, I know he will do well."

Also effective today, A.J. Bytnar takes over as the new Director of Redevelopment. Bytnar comes to Gary with ten years of experience in both the private and public sectors. He has previously served in the economic development department in Fishers, Indiana; the real estate department of the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA), was City Planner for Hobart, Indiana and the Lake County Department of Planning; Director of Planning and Development for the city of Lowell and has worked in private development with Edward Rose and Sons,

Van Dyk leaves the city to move closer to family on the West Coast, but will remain with the City through September on a part-time basis to complete the City's Comprehensive Plan update.

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