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CITY OF GARY WELCOMES THE CHICAGO-BASED SOUTH SHORE DRILL TEAM TO THE CITY'S INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE ON JULY 3RD FIREWORKS TO FOLLOW

Gary, Indiana-The city of Gary is gearing up for its all new Independence Day Parade on Wednesday, July 3rd. In addition to Gary's own performing arts groups, just added to the parade line-up on the 3rd is the South Shore Drill Team of Chicago! For the first time, Gary welcomes this Chicagoland favorite to the city of Gary.

The city's annual parade moves back to Broadway the day before the Fourth of July Holiday. The parade will be held in the evening at 6:00 p.m. and will travel north on Broadway from 15th Avenue north to 6th Avenue. A fantastic Fireworks Show sponsored by Spectacle Entertainment & Majestic Star Casino will round out the celebration beginning at 9:00 p.m. in the city's downtown. Spectators may view the fireworks from parking lots in the vicinity of the RailCats stadium.

Almost 40 years old, the South Shore Drill Team was founded in 1980 by Chicago Public School teacher, Arthur Robertson with a handful of neighborhood children. The organization uses the performing arts to engage inner-city youth throughout their critical teenage years, to mitigate the dangers of gangs, drugs and violence and to guide its members toward completing their education and to becoming responsible citizens.

"We are looking forward to the changes for this year's parade," stated Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson. "The evening parade and fireworks will be an exciting way for family to kick off the 4th of July holiday. We welcome the South Shore Drill Team to Gary and look forward to their performance." The mayor also thanked Spectacle Entertainment & Majestic Star Casino for their generous support of the fireworks show and thanked Indiana University Northwest and Powers & Sons for their support of the celebration.

The City of Gary's parade has been dubbed, "one of the best Independence Day Parades in Northwest Indiana." The much anticipated parade will celebrate the national holiday and showcase the festive spirit of the Gary community. All are invited to join the city, Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson, members of the Gary Common Council, our sponsors, family and friends in this display of Gary patriotism and pride during this traditional celebration. The Parade theme this year is ***"We Are Gary Proud and Gary Strong!"***

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