



## **Department of Communications**

401 Broadway • Suite 211 • Gary, Indiana 46402-1236

Phone 219.881.1314 • Fax 219.881.1337

Email [ldburns@ci.gary.in.us](mailto:ldburns@ci.gary.in.us)

Karen Freeman-Wilson  
Mayor

LaLosa Dent Burns  
Director of Communications

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **GARY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERMODAL HUB MOVING FORWARD**

**Gary, Indiana**-The City of Gary's proposal for an Intermodal Hub at the city's Buffington Harbor is moving forward following the Indiana General Assembly's vote to pass Senate Bill 552 which allows Majestic Star Casino to move to I-80/94. The Indiana Senate passed the bill 37-12 and the House voted 78-15.

Following the news, Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson continued to emphasize that the city's efforts do not focus solely on the movement of the casino. Freeman-Wilson said, "This is a great opportunity for industrial and commercial development in the Buffington Harbor and vicinity particularly because of the area's assets: the proximity of rail, highways, water and air transportation. This is about economic development, job creation and exponential growth in the city of Gary. We have seen significant growth and increased revenue at the airport through both public and private investments and see similar opportunities in Buffington Harbor."

The city has long had the vision of economic development at Buffington Harbor. In October 2018, the Interim Study Committee on Commerce and Economic Development reviewed the assets of the Buffington Harbor area pursuant to Senate Bill 24 authored by Senator Eddie Melton and determined that there was merit in the creation of an intermodal hub. At that time, the Committee also found that it was optimal to move the Majestic Star Casinos to an alternative location in the city. During a second meeting with the state committee, John Vickerman of Vickerman and Associates, a national port expert and Bill Alsup of Union Gaming, a gaming expert are both familiar with Gary's development plans and presented data to the committee that supported the city's plans.

In February this year, Senator Ryan Mishler filed Senate Bill 66, subtitled the Gary Economic Development Bill, in an effort to advance development at Gary's Buffington Harbor. The bill provided for the creation of a trans-modal compact to allow the city of Gary, Airport Authority and Port Authority to partner with state entities to accelerate development at Buffington Harbor.

Mayor Freeman-Wilson then expressed concerns about the composition and the authority of the compact, however after working with members of the General Assembly, Mayor Freeman-Wilson and Councilman Brewer commended the members of the Senate committee for amending the composition of the compact that provides a true voice for Gary residents.

“We have worked hard to get to this day,” said Freeman-Wilson. We thank Senator Melton and everyone involved in this process. It is an indicator that lawmakers acknowledge the importance of the Buffington Harbor development for local residents and the entire state of Indiana.” “We are also excited to welcome Spectacle Entertainment to the city of Gary and look forward to them being an integral part of Team Gary and working together to develop greater opportunities for Gary residents and businesses.”

The Bill now moves to Governor Holcomb’s office.

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