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**MAYOR KAREN FREEMAN-WILSON RELEASES STATEMENT FOLLOWING INDICTMENT OF
FORMER GENESIS CENTER BOOKEEPER**

Gary, Indiana-Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson released a statement today following the U. S. Attorney's action related to a former employee's theft from the city's Genesis Convention Center.

The United States Attorney this week filed a plea agreement pursuant to an indictment of former Genesis Center Bookkeeper and Interim Executive Director, Victoria Wilson. Wilson's indictment came as a result of the city's internal audit findings and a report of the findings to the State Board of Accounts.

Mayor Freeman-Wilson stated, "The administration and the city Council have worked hard to insure the profitability of the Genesis Center. Any actions inconsistent with those efforts are unacceptable." The good news is that the internal audit process and internal controls are working. The Internal Auditor continues to hold city employees to high standards."

"We will continue to strengthen our internal controls to minimize the possibility of any other incidents like this occurring. At the same time, we are always disappointed when employees breach the public's trust and confidence. We will also continue to conduct audits and refer findings to the State Board of Accounts and all other authorities when appropriate. We are additionally pleased that U. S. Attorney Thomas Kirsch has included restitution in the plea agreement."

The case is prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's office and will be heard in front of a federal judge in Hammond.