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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**CITY RELEASES STATEMENT FOLLOWING OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING**

**Gary, Indiana**-The Gary Police Department released the following statement in regard to the recent officer involved shooting.

“On Saturday, August 17, 2019 at 3:16 a.m. the Gary Police Department responded to a call of “shots fired” in the area of 23<sup>rd</sup> and Kentucky Street. While investigating the call, the officers encountered a parked vehicle with three occupants. Officers approached the vehicle and during the course of the investigation a police officer’s weapon was discharged resulting in the death of Rashad Cunningham.”

Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson says, “The loss of life is a tragedy. We offer condolences to the family of Mr. Cunningham. We realize the frustrations associated with losing a loved one and our community has many questions about the incident. Answers to those questions will come with a full, independent investigation. When we get those answers, the Gary Police Department will be open and transparent in communicating with the public.”

In following the protocol of the Gary Police Department, this shooting is being investigated by the Lake County Sheriff’s Department. The results of the investigation will also be reviewed by the Lake County Prosecutor’s Office as a routine practice. While Gary Police will work closely the Sheriff’s department, any additional information will be released by county officials.

The Gary Police Department does not utilize body or dashboard cameras.