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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**MAYOR KAREN FREEMAN-WILSON STATEMENT  
UPON THE PASSING OF MAYOR RICHARD G HATCHER**

**Gary, Indiana-** Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson released this statement after learning of the passing of Mayor Richard Gordon Hatcher:

“I am deeply saddened by the passing of Mayor Richard Gordon Hatcher. I offer my personal condolences to his wife: Ruth Ellen, his daughters; Ragen, Rachelle and Renee... and to his family and friends. Our entire community mourns the loss of a great man and we will be forever touched by his selfless service to the city of Gary. I am humbled to be a recipient of his wisdom and guidance and will always be grateful for his influence on my life. “We should be proud as a community that we gave him his flowers in the form of a statue placed at City Hall while he could smell them.”

*- Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson*

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