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HENRY EXPANDS TRANSITION TEAM MEMBERSHIP, PICKS REFLECT DIVERSE COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

Group Anticipates Concentrated Activity Over Next Six Weeks

Fort Wayne, Indiana – Mayor-elect Tom Henry today released the names of seven additional Henry Transition Team members. The wide-ranging group will assist the city's newly elected chief executive in the formation of the new administration. Chaired by Ben Eisbart, the team will focus immediately on effecting a smooth leadership changeover.

“Working hard on behalf of all citizens and ensuring that Fort Wayne is a thriving, attractive community are my fundamental goals,” stated Henry. “To achieve both I will need the best, most able staff at my side. Assisting me in shaping the new administration is an outstanding group of individuals. Their willingness to step forward is gratifying and demonstrates their commitment to this community. I thank them and look forward to their insights and guidance.”

Representing diverse expertise and viewpoints, the transition team members and their brief biographical details are as follow:

- Dick Merren. For nearly 50 years, Merren has fought to strengthen this community's workforce and improve opportunities for those on the front lines who are producing our community's goods and services. He is Chair of the United Auto Workers' (UAW) Region 3, Area 4 Community Action Programs' Council and Chair of the UAW Region 3 Retirees' Council.
- Ken Neumeister. Dedicated to building this community in his work and his life, Neumeister has spent a distinguished career in the construction industry. He is grounded in economic development and land use issues, and is currently President and CEO of Liberty Construction, Inc. His bipartisan approach to governance underscores the importance of partnerships and collaboration to the new mayor.
- Rae Pearson, Ph.D. With her 27 years of human resources and executive search experience, Dr. Pearson will be a valuable asset in the development of the new administration. She is President and CEO of Alpha Rae Personnel, Inc., and is a State Commissioner for the Indiana Department of Administration.

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- Chuck Surack. Founder and President of Sweetwater Sound, Surack is an established, accomplished entrepreneur with strong leadership skills in the economic development and business management arenas. Recognized worldwide in the electronic music field, he has a native's understanding of his hometown and a track record of making it better through his active community service.
- Bob Taylor. Taylor is President and CEO of Do it Best Corporation. He brings regional economic development, downtown planning and extensive philanthropic experiences to the team. As a successful businessman and community volunteer, he has been engaged in a hands-on way in many of Fort Wayne's and the area's progressive initiatives.
- Andrew Thomas. Thomas is Vice President of Sales with Ridge NAPA Auto Parts and is owner of 816 Pint & Slice. He is a young professional and a third-generation Fort Wayne business owner. He is also board President of Young Leaders of Northeast Indiana. He understands that the community's quality of life is an essential component of its economic vitality equation.
- Irene Walters. A longtime community volunteer, Walters is deeply invested in northeast Indiana. She is a former owner of several successful small businesses, has helped direct numerous civic nonprofit boards and raised significant funds on their behalf, and as a teacher, is steeped in the field of education. A bridge builder, she draws people together and draws upon her many experiences in the economic, educational and cultural worlds to champion innovation and inclusion.

"I envision an administration that embodies this community's can-do spirit," observed Henry. "It will reflect Fort Wayne's diversity and depth of talent. There is much to be done, much to be achieved. We are setting the bar high as we assemble the staff, because our challenges are many and our opportunities are even greater. We must be ready to seize both."

The transition team expects to meet frequently over the next six weeks. The initial session will establish roles, responsibilities and a timeline.

Henry reiterated that all interested applicants for positions within the new administration should submit resumes online at www.tomhenryformayor.com, transmit them via e-mail to campaign@tomhenryformayor.com or send them to Henry for Mayor Transition, P.O. Box 5406, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46859.

Tom Henry is the Mayor-elect of Fort Wayne, Indiana. He is a successful business owner, a five-term Fort Wayne City Councilman and a nonprofit leader with deep roots in the community.

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