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HENRY GIVES NEW RESIDENTS SERVICE COMMITMENT

New Administration to Go the Extra Mile in Welcoming Annexed Areas

Fort Wayne, Indiana – Accompanied by 4th District Fort Wayne City Council candidate Chris Stewart, Mayoral candidate Tom Henry today pledged that his administration will take extra steps to ensure that Fort Wayne’s newest residents receive the highest-quality city services delivered in a responsive, cost-effective manner. To guarantee this commitment, Henry will establish a New Resident Advocate position to give those in recently annexed areas a one-stop point of contact and an exclusive resource for their needs.

“As Mayor, I will be committed to first-class delivery of services to every citizen, but I am determined to go the extra mile in welcoming those in our newly annexed areas,” affirmed Henry. “The property tax crunch has been tough on so many. While I remain resolved to help find a real solution to the property tax crisis, I am equally dedicated to making sure that those just joining the city have the easiest access, the most prompt service and a full measure of the best Fort Wayne city living has to offer.”

Over the past eight years, the population of the city has increased 33 percent, from 190,000 to 252,000 residents. In that same time period, the city has added over 350 miles of roads and expanded its geographic size by 30 square miles. The demand for services has multiplied proportionately. These significant growth indicators underscore the importance of an added level of service for those citizens still orienting themselves to life within Fort Wayne’s city limits.

For residents in areas that lately have become a part of the city, or for any new resident, the New Resident Advocate is anticipated to serve as:

- The first-stop for information about city activities, operations and services;
- A facilitator for solving problems;
- The eyes and ears and a responsive voice on behalf of the needs of new residents; and
- An advocate for access to and full deployment of all city services.

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HENRY *for* MAYOR

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“When new family members arrive, you put out the welcome mat and you keep it out. It just makes sense,” added Henry. “Our city’s gone through a major transition in recent years. I want to make our ongoing changes as smooth and simple as they can be. I want every citizen to know they count and to get real value for their tax dollars. That is what responsive leadership is all about. I intend to make it a hallmark of my administration.”

The city currently has four Neighborhood Specialists, each serving a specific quadrant. The New Resident Advocate position will complement the work of those key positions. It will not require the creation of a new staff position or additional funding, but will be incorporated into the job description of an existing Community Development Division employee.

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