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DIVISIONS OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT

Office of the Mayor

The Mayor oversees the implementation of policies and the efficient flow of ongoing services through wide appointive powers. This includes the capability to appoint the heads of seven major administrative divisions of the city and many board and commission members. Specific departments under the Office of the Mayor include the Public Information Office, Human Resources, Benefits, Cable, the Neighborhood and Citizen's Advocate Office, the Law Department, the Internal Audit Department, and Information Systems/ACS.

City Clerk

The office of the City Clerk is crucial as a liaison between the citizens of Fort Wayne and the Common Council. The City Clerk also acts as a liaison between the Administration and the Common Council. The office includes a number of Indiana Statutory responsibilities and also serves as the administrator of the City of Fort Wayne Violations Bureau.

Finance & Administration

The mission of the Finance & Administration Division is to ensure fiscal responsibility and effective administrative services for the City of Fort Wayne. The departments within the division are the Controller's Office, Risk Management, Payroll, Purchasing, and Property Management.

Public Safety

The Division provides safety, maintains order and protects the rights of the Citizens of Fort Wayne. The Fire Chief and Chief of Police retain the responsibility for major policy decisions, budgeting, long-range planning and the day-to-day coordination of seven departments: Police, Fire, Animal Control, Weights and Measures, Neighborhood Code, Police Merit Commission, and Communications.

Community Development

The overall purpose of the Division is to improve Fort Wayne's physical and economic environment. The Division includes the following departments: Administration, Fiscal, Redevelopment, Land Use and Development Permits, Community Development Corporation, Planning, Special Projects/GIS and the Office of Housing and Neighborhood Services.

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The mission of the Division is *to develop and implement creative community-based strategies to enhance economic opportunity, build strong neighborhoods, and ensure a dynamic framework for quality growth and development.* Economic development, urban revitalization, housing and comprehensive planning continue to be high priorities of the City of Fort Wayne. Growth in the City's assessed value is essential to holding its property tax rate flat and ensuring that the cost of City services is shared by those who use the services.

The City's Community Development Division is primarily responsible for these efforts, both through its various departments' activities and those of contractors. The City contracts with the Fort Wayne-Allen County Economic Development Alliance ("The Alliance") to coordinate economic development marketing services and project management.

City Utilities and Public Works

The City Utilities Administration Department represents the office of the Director of Utilities and is responsible for enforcement and interpreting City Utilities rules and regulations. City Utilities encompasses the departments of Accounting, Customer Relations, Data Control, Meter Reading, New Water and Sewer Permits, Water Resources (Development Services, Planning and Design, Engineering Support Services, Geographical Information Systems), Water Maintenance and Service, Water Filtration Plant, Water Pollution Control Maintenance, Storm water Maintenance, and Water Pollution Control Plant.

The Division of Public Works is the administrator for much of Fort Wayne's infrastructure. Its departments maintain and improve the City's system for transportation and solid waste. From engineering and intersection improvement to battling floods, the Division of Public Works provides a vital support to neighborhoods, businesses, and economic development projects. The Division encompasses the Office of the Director, Barrett Law, Solid Waste Management, Traffic Engineering, Transportation Administration & Support, Street Light Engineering, Street Department, Street Project Management, Flood Control, and City Garage.

Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Department maintains more than 2,800 acres of public park lands and provides numerous recreation facilities, programs and services for the Fort Wayne community. Created in 1905, the Parks and Recreation Department is administered by a four-member bipartisan Board of Park Commissioners. Authorized by state statute, the Board of Park Commissioners reviews and approves the annual budget, expenditures and contracts. In addition, they oversee 84 parks, including the Children's Zoo, Headwaters Park, the Botanical Conservatory, McMillen Ice Arena and three community centers.

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During 2005, the Parks and Recreation Department celebrated its centennial year by acknowledging its growth (from six parks and 95 acres to today's 84 parks and 2,800 acres) and history with a summer of fun. The department offered a photo contest called "A Day in the Park," which encouraged people to visit and discover parks. Popular \$1 Friday admission days were scheduled at various facilities every Friday throughout the summer. Even the gardeners participated in Centennial activities by researching and planting gardens with tropical plants that were popular 100 years ago.

As the department's way of thanking the community for its generosity over the decades, special events were provided to wrap up the summer. They included an old-fashioned social at Salomon Farm and a Celebration on Skates at McMillen Ice Arena. The largest special event was a "Party in the Park," which attracted more than 2,300 people to featured activities like moonwalks, children's games, carriage and train rides, clowns, live music, free food and birthday cake.

In July 2005, the City Council approved a \$10 million bond for the Parks and Recreation Department. During the next three years (2006-2008), residents may expect completion of 36 major projects, along with maintenance improvements throughout the system. The selection of the projects was based on a recently completed Comprehensive Plan, in which the public identified eight key areas for spending and improvements. Some of the highlights include development of Buckner Park, lighting and improving current facilities, completing improvements to Foellinger Theatre, acquiring land for developing additional pathways and the Greenway, land acquisition for additional parks, and development of a needed facility for the Lifetime Sports Academy.