For Immediate Release

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EASTPORT Neighborhood Plan

MICHIGAN CITY, IN – The Indiana Association for Community Economic Development (IACED) is working in partnership with the City of Michigan City to help the residents and stakeholders in the Eastport neighborhood (neighborhood boundaries: Poplar Street, Vail Street, Springland Avenue, Roeske Avenue, and Barker Avenue) develop a plan for the future of the neighborhood that includes what the public, private, and philanthropic sectors can do in collaboration with residents and stakeholders to make Eastport an even greater place to live, work, and play.

The first step of the neighborhood planning process is to organize and engage residents and stakeholders in conversation about the neighborhood. These first meetings are called focus group meetings:

**Resident Focus Group** (focus: the opinions/topics of concern to residents of the neighborhood):
**Wednesday, April 20, 6:00 – 7:30 PM at the Fire Training Center (2510 E. Michigan Boulevard)**

**Business Focus Group** (focus: the opinions/topics of concern to businesses of the neighborhood):
**Thursday, April 21, 6:00 – 7:30 PM at the Fire Training Center (2510 E. Michigan Boulevard)**

The focus group meetings will be an opportunity to meet new people from the neighborhood and greet neighbors as well as learn about the Eastport planning process, participate in group discussion about the neighborhood, and provide individual input on issues of importance for the neighborhood. The meeting will last approximately 90 minutes. If you are unable to make the appropriate meeting for you, but can make the other, please come. The conversation will be a little different, but your input is valuable to the plan.

In future sessions there will be a report back of what was heard during the focus group meetings and key interviews, a neighborhood visioning session, and opportunities for participating in the working groups that will develop the goals and action plans for accomplishing the shared vision.

This process is a departure from the traditional approach to neighborhood plans in that residents and stakeholders (formal and informal leaders) will be engaged in every stage of plan development and the plan will include a strategic action plan to guide implementation by residents, businesses, non-profits, and the city.

Michigan City has contracted with the Indiana Association for Community Economic Development (IACED) to guide the neighborhood planning process using a comprehensive community development model. Rose Scovel, AICP is the Director of Capacity Building for IACED and will lead the process.

For more information, contact Jessica Gage in the Michigan City Planning Department at jgage@emichigancity.com or 219-873-1419, Extension 323.