



**THE COUNCIL  
CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS  
MARION COUNTY**

**MIKE SPEEDY**  
Councillor, District 24

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 25, 2010

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**Final Utility Transfer Ordinance Filed by Councillor Speedy**

*Ordinance seeks approval of the transfer of water and wastewater systems to Citizens Energy Group*

**INDIANAPOLIS** – The proposal to approve the transfer of the water and wastewater utilities to Citizens Energy Group will be introduced by the City-County Council on June 28, 2010. Councillor Mike Speedy, District 24, filed the ordinance seeking approval of the agreements between the City and Citizens. They have been negotiating the final agreements since the Council officially approved them May 17, 2010. Passage of the ordinance would permit the City and Citizens to seek final approval of the transfer from the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC).

If approved by the Council and the IURC, the transfer will fund more than \$425 million in infrastructure improvements planned through the RebuildIndy initiative, while ensuring a 25 percent reduction in projected rate increases by 2025. It is hoped the IURC will approve the transfer by year's end.

“Since March 10, Mayor Greg Ballard’s office, councillors and Citizens have actively educated the Council and the public about the benefits of the transfer of the water and wastewater utilities,” said Councillor Speedy. “After initially reviewing the definitive agreements, I am confident that the final agreement has addressed all of the concerns raised during the comprehensive public discussion. This transfer will positively impact Indianapolis residents and businesses by ensuring our utilities are locally owned and professionally managed with consistent and predictable rates.”

Upon approval of the ordinance allowing the City and Citizens to move forward with final negotiations, the Council created a Utility Transfer Oversight Committee. Throughout the next month, the committee will meet to review the approval ordinance and definitive agreements and to hear comments from the public.

“Three months ago, I announced a proposal with the potential to transform our city by transferring the water and wastewater utilities to Citizens. Today, after many public forums and open discussions with the Council and other key stakeholders, our city takes another step toward realizing a transformation that will bring lower than projected rates, millions of dollars to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure and a stable, predictable utility system,” said Mayor Ballard. “I commend Councillor Speedy for continuing to lead the discussion on the utility transfer with the Council. His leadership on this initiative will help make Indianapolis a better place to live and work.”

Final Council consideration of the utility transfer comes after the Board of Public Works and Board of Waterworks both voted in favor of the proposal. Endorsements also have been made by the Builders Association of Greater Indianapolis, Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee, Indianapolis Business Journal, Indianapolis Convention and Visitors Association,

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and Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance.

“Due to three months of public dialogue, we were able to address the concerns of the community and Council in our final negotiations. With the addition of a first right of refusal for the City and other considerations, I wholly believe this transfer will serve the best interests of all of Indianapolis,” said Carey Lykins, president and CEO of Citizens Energy Group. “By placing the water and wastewater utilities into the public charitable trust, residents of Indianapolis should expect safe and reliable utilities, stable rates, professional management and excellent customer service.”

Pending final approval from the Council and the IURC, the transfer will provide the City with approximately \$425 million in revenue that will be invested in infrastructure improvements. On May 11, Mayor Ballard previewed his RebuildIndy initiative, funded through the revenue created from the proposed transfer, in addition to the \$88 million already committed for transportation improvements. Infrastructure improvements completed through the RebuildIndy initiative will create local jobs while rebuilding crumbling roads, sidewalks and bridges and demolishing unsalvageable abandoned homes.

For more information about the utility transfer or to submit feedback, visit [www.indy.gov/utilities](http://www.indy.gov/utilities), log on to the FTP site, <ftp://ftp.indygov.org/utilities> (username: public; password: public) or call (317) 327-4MAC.

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