

Karen Freeman-Wilson

Gary, Lake County

October 24 –

In November 2011, Karen Freeman- Wilson was elected Mayor of Gary, Indiana. With her election, Freeman-Wilson became the first woman to lead the steel city and the first African-American female mayor in the State of Indiana.

Despite her breadth of travel and influence throughout the United States, Freeman-Wilson has had an unwavering loyalty and commitment to her home city. Her passion for Gary, coupled with her experience and training, have positioned her for leadership and prepared her to tackle the major challenges facing the city. Freeman-Wilson has consulted with the Office of White House Drug Control Policy, the Department of Justice and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in the creation and implementation of drug policy. As the twice-elected Gary City Judge, she helped pioneer the drug court movement in Indiana.

Freeman-Wilson has served in state government. During her tenure as Indiana Attorney General, Freeman-Wilson fought on behalf of youth, seniors, and abused nursing home patients. She was one of the first Attorneys General in the country to combat gas price gouging and to ensure that tobacco settlement dollars were directed towards smoking cessation and health care. While she was the Executive Director of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission, Indiana was one of the first states to pass legislation comparable to the American with Disabilities Act.

In 2000, she was named as one of the top 100 to watch by the National Democratic Leadership Council. That was followed with the honor of being asked to address the 2000 National Democratic Convention in Los Angeles. Her contributions have also been acknowledged by U.S. Drug Czars, Indiana Governors and Supreme Court Justices throughout the United States.

For more information about Karen Freeman-Wilson, go to: <http://www.gary.in.us/city-departments/mayor.asp>.

For more information about *Writing Her Story*, go to: <http://www.in.gov/icw/2440.htm>.

Photo: City of Gary, Indiana. Retrieved from: <http://www.gary.in.us/city-departments/mayor.asp>.




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