



[Contact](#) [Subscribe](#) [Today's Paper](#) [TV Weekly](#) [Reader Services](#) [Advertise with Us](#) [Select a Site](#)

[Search](#)



[Register for free](#) | [Login](#)

## Reaction to Gary mayor's State of the City address

February 19, 2014 11:16PM

Updated: February 20, 2014 2:02AM

[Other views](#)

Reactions to Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson's third State of the City address.

### **Sandra Dafiaghor**

CR Works Executive Director, a not-for-profit corporation focusing on affordable housing, including the newly opened Comfort Villas:

"As far as the administration, they make things happen. The Comfort Villas is testament to the fact of making things happen. The most important thing is, in terms of permits and inspections, those were expedited. We broke ground on Comfort Villas in April (2013), and were open by November. Typically, those things take time. The structure now, it's made it a lot faster"

### **Portage Mayor James Snyder**

"I believe (Freeman-Wilson) was right on on many points. The success of Gary is so important to all of us, and we're just grateful for her leadership and her stand.

"The airport is very important to us for economic development, and the port we have in Portage, and seeing the airport succeed will be a huge benefit to all surrounding municipalities and communities."

### **Vanessa Allen**

President and CEO, Urban League of Northwest Indiana, on Gary being named to the federal Strong Cities, Strong Communities program:

"(Freeman-Wilson) pointed out the positiveness and the order of things and sometimes the difficult things that can stop a person from making progress, but I'm going to work with her in any way i can to support us growing.

"I think the (Strong Cities, Strong Communities) initiative is going to be a huge initiative in our city, and we need to come together to make sure we have everything in place"

### **Jena Belleza**

Indiana Parenting Institute marketing director, on promises to coordinate efforts across public, private and charter schools in Gary:

"(Freeman-Wilson) really made it a point to let us understand what her struggles were and what they're trying to accomplish in the city. I think it's hugely import for the schools to work together. You all have the same goals, so why are you in competition with each other?"

— Michael Gonzalez

---