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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Lafayette hires new assistant director for economic development

LAFAYETTE, IN – July 26, 2016 – The City of Lafayette welcomes John Collier as assistant director for the Economic Development Department. This position was recently created by restructuring existing positions within the department and will help raise the department's capacity to meet Lafayette's growing needs of economic and community development. Collier, who recently retired from Purdue University after 32 years, brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this position.

This new position will help assist with the core functions of the department which are business attention, retention, and expansion, as well as work with the Redevelopment Commission, the Historic Preservation Commission, and the Parking Commission. Collier will also work with quality of life and place making initiatives such as downtown and riverfront development including the Riverfront Promenade that is in conjunction with the Marq project. Furthermore, Collier will actively support real estate and infill development projects within the city.

Economic development director for the City of Lafayette, Dennis Carson, said "John brings many years of development and design experience and expertise specifically in landscape architecture, planning and public space development. With John's expertise as our city continues to grow, we will be able to enhance quality of life making Lafayette a place of choice that helps with our talent, retention and attraction goals."

Collier retired from Purdue University after more than 30 years of experience in site design and master planning and nearly two years in residential life. Throughout his years at Purdue, he was able to help positively change the look of the campus, create additional green space and public areas, make the campus more pedestrian friendly, and enhance the quality of space and user experience for campus as a whole. Part of his work was to bring lots of different groups of people together and engage not only the Purdue community but residents and stakeholders of Lafayette-West Lafayette. Collier is involved throughout the Greater Lafayette community and serves on the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation board. He is an active volunteer at Civic Theatre of Greater Lafayette and has served in the past as a member of the West Lafayette Public Arts Team, and the Lafayette Crisis Center board.

New assistant director John Collier couldn't be more excited about his position within the Economic Development department. "I want to be a part of the positive things happening in the city and a part of the growth and continued change within Lafayette. This is a great community and it's where I want to live and choose to live. I believe any successful community needs to work together with different constituents and listen to their thoughts and ideas. I lead by the servant-leader philosophy that you have to be a doer and not a bystander in the community you live in."

Mayor Tony Roswarski said, "John Collier brings a tremendous amount of experience and expertise to this new role. Lafayette continues to see remarkable growth in the areas of community and economic development and we are committed to building a team of people dedicated to strengthening that infrastructure. John's community-focused vision, strong connections and understanding of collaboration, along with his long-standing involvement with the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation, makes him a perfect fit for helping build the future of Lafayette."

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