



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Democrats Issue Statement Regarding City Council Meeting**

*Vanderburgh County Democratic Party supports Councilwoman Robinson and her choice for the Commission of the Social Status of African American Males.*

**Evansville, IN, May 28, 2019:** The Vanderburgh County Democratic Party Central Committee, made the following statement regarding the May 20<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting:

“The Vanderburgh County Democratic Party Central Committee met in closed session May 24 to discuss the fallout of the May 20<sup>th</sup> Evansville City Council Meeting where Councilperson Connie Robinson advanced the name of Reverend William Payne as a candidate for the Commission of the Social Status of African American Males. It is our position that Councilperson Robinson, who is the only African American on the Council and who has worked her entire career as an advocate for the African American community, should be deferred to as an authority on individuals most appropriate for the Commission. Instead of acknowledging that people of color have a unique and valuable perspective on their own community, Reverend Payne’s suitability for the Commission was attacked, and in his absence, his character assaulted. We consider the negative statements made about Rev. Payne at the Council meeting irresponsible and defamatory. While it is true that Reverend Payne has experienced the difficult conditions of the African American male in Evansville first-hand, he has also worked tirelessly to give back and make his community better. The Vanderburgh County Democratic Party Central Committee condemns the attack on Reverend Payne’s character, and we hope that he continues his fight for social justice in Evansville. Moving forward, we hope City Council members who voted against Reverend Payne take the opportunity to visit one of the outreach programs he has established to experience firsthand his good works and reconsiders his value to the Commission.”

Vanderburgh County Democratic Party; Scott Danks – Chairperson, Edie Hardcastle – Vice Chair,  
Alex Burton – Treasurer, Cheryl Schultz –Secretary

If you would like more information regarding the city council race and our candidates, please call Cheryl Schultz at 812-459-7645 for more information.