




## South Bend Common Council

227 West Jefferson Boulevard, Room 441, Downtown South Bend, Indiana 46601

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### NEWS RELEASE

Date: Monday, July 18, 2016

From: Council Vice-President Oliver J. Davis 

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### **Proposed Clean Energy Resolution to Be Continued**

On June 21<sup>st</sup>, I along with Council Member at Large Gavin Ferlic and 1<sup>st</sup> District Council Member Tim Scott filed Bill No. 16-57 which addresses the topic of Clean Energy for South Bend.

In light of the volume of public comments which this Bill triggered, I asked 5<sup>th</sup> District Council Member David Varner to have the proposed Resolution sent to the Council's Utilities Committee, which he chairs, so that the opportunity for public comment and discussion would be enhanced.

To date, Dr. Varner has chaired two (2) Utility Committee meetings held on June 27<sup>th</sup> and July 12<sup>th</sup>. At both of those meetings, representatives of the Sierra Club, representatives AEP Indiana Michigan Power, and members of the public provided the Committee with more information, data, and candid opinions.

It was clear after the last Utilities Committee, that in order to move forward on a Resolution addressing clean energy, that the final version of such a Resolution must focus on a clear vision and reasonable roadmap for the City of South Bend, so that moving forward would be in a positive manner encompasses the best interests of the citizens of our City.

I have also met with Therese Dorau, the City of South Bend's Director of Sustainability. I have asked her to provide more data which addressing "best practices" on potential transitions to clean energy. Until that information is prepared, which would include the crafting a substitute Resolution, which also will reflect the information that we obtained from the two (2) Utilities Committee meetings, I believe that Bill No. 16-57, currently set for public hearing on Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup> should be continued.

As noted in our cover letter which accompanied Bill No. 16-57 at filing, the City of South Bend has a long and detailed legislative record on a variety of environmental matters going back to at least 1973. Over that period of time, more than forty (40) legislative actions have been carefully studied, methodically reviewed, and publicly discussed such topics as air pollution control, LED traffic lights, green roofs, CNG, and green infrastructure of rerouting rooftop drainage – just to name a few.

This comprehensive and transparent approach will provide more opportunity for the voices of South Bend residents and businesses doing business in our great City to be heard. Thank you.

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