



## **Canneth Lee**

1<sup>ST</sup> District Council Member  
Committee of the Whole

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### **NEWS RELEASE**

**FROM:** COUNCIL MEMBER CANNETH LEE  
**SUBJECT:** RESPONSE TO WALMART ON PORTAGE AVE CLOSURE  
**DATE:** MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023  
**CONTACT:** CLEE@SOUTHBENDIN.GOV

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### ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

#### **RESPONSE TO WALMART ON PORTAGE AVE CLOSURE**

I am shocked and frustrated by the closing of the Walmart on Portage. Once I received an email from the Government liaison from Walmart, I immediately made contact to see what was going on. I was told the store was underperforming and Corporate made the decision. I asked what the plans were for the 270 workers, they said they would be relocated to other Walmart locations or will be given severance pay until June. I asked about the building who owns it and what are the plans; Walmart owns the building and didn't have an answer at this time. It was a Corporate decision.

Wednesday I started reaching out to social service agencies and found out Work One will be working with employees with their Rapid Recovery program to help employees transition. Also, there have been conversations to setup resource for individuals that may need help with resume writing and job searching.

This is a devastating loss for the first (1<sup>st</sup>) district. My thoughts and prayers are with those 270 workers and thousands of people who were dedicated shoppers at Walmart. We will continue to appeal to Walmart and will work tirelessly with the Department of Community Investment to advocate for an option to replace the loss of Walmart.

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