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CENTRAL INDIANA OFFICIALS JOIN TOGETHER TO ANNOUNCE THE CENTRAL INDIANA PURCHASING ALLIANCE
Local governments to share purchasing agreements in an effort to streamline government

INDIANAPOLIS – (September 25, 2008) Mayor Greg Ballard today joined Westfield Mayor Andy Cook and other local leaders throughout the area to announce the formation of the Central Indiana Purchasing Alliance (CIPA), a collaboration of local governments throughout Central Indiana that will share purchasing agreements for certain commodities in an effort to leverage greater purchasing power, streamline government, and reign in local spending.

The City of Indianapolis and the City of Westfield began talks of a possible purchasing collaboration early this year in the midst of budget cuts and hiring freezes. The cities share the goals of streamlining government while intensely looking for ways to do more with less. By identifying similar commodities and combining purchasing contracts, local governments throughout Central Indiana could provide services at a lower cost to taxpayers.

“This is a common-sense initiative that will allow us to more wisely and more effectively use taxpayer dollars,” said Mayor Ballard. “By combining purchasing efforts, we are eliminating a duplicative process without reducing the level of service we provide to the community. It is a win-win arrangement, and it is exactly the type of move encouraged by the Kernan-Shepard report.”

The Kernan-Shepard report recommends that local governments strengthen by reorganizing within their own structure rather than continuing to fail the taxpayer by operating within an outdated system. CIPA is an approach to such reorganization that has the potential to cut overall spending by combining efforts of multiple local governments and agencies.

Governor Mitch Daniels applauds the efforts of these local entities as state government is a key partner in this initiative.
“State government has saved millions of tax dollars over the past few years by consolidating purchasing among agencies and opening up state contracts to local units of government,” said Daniels. “I’m glad to see local governments forming an alliance that will bring greater efficiency and greater savings to taxpayers.”

Westfield Mayor Andy Cook added: “It is more than saving a few dollars on office supplies and road salt; it’s about the big picture – collaborating with agencies to diminish overlapping layers of purchasing to bring down overall costs to taxpayers.”

In an effort to cut costs state-wide, the Cities of Indianapolis and Westfield have invited other local governments to get involved. The City of Noblesville, Plainfield, Beech Grove, Lawrence, Greenwood and Carmel will also join in this effort.

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