GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR NAMES CITY-COUNTY COUNCILLOR AS HONORARY CONSUL TO THE REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Ballard announced today that Jeff Cardwell, City-County Councillor, District 23, has been appointed Honorary Consul to the Republic of El Salvador.

Mayor Ballard said he was proud to make the announcement that Mr. Cardwell was the recipient of such a prestigious appointment, and credited Indianapolis’ strong relationship with El Salvador to Mr. Cardwell’s diplomatic and humanitarian efforts.

“Over the past few years, a strong relationship has developed between Indianapolis and El Salvador. This is due, in large part, to the efforts of Mr. Cardwell,” said Ballard.

Carolin Requiz Smith, Director of the Mayor’s Office of International & Cultural Affairs, said she is also quite pleased that Mr. Cardwell will be joining the ranks of the City’s Honorary Consular Corps.

“Jeff’s appointment as Honorary Consul to El Salvador will be a very good thing for Indianapolis: his experience in business, international affairs, and humanitarian assistance will serve our city well,” said Smith.

Mr. Cardwell received the consulship during a recent visit to El Salvador. The appointment was conferred by former President Tony Saca just prior to the end of his term. Mr. Cardwell, who had been invited to El Salvador to attend the June 1st transfer of power ceremony between President Saca and, now, President Mauricio Funes, said he was honored to be the recipient of such a distinction and looks forward to working with the new administration.

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“It is a real privilege and honor to be named as an “Honorary Consul” to the country of El Salvador,” said Cardwell. “I first started working in El Salvador in 2000. On January 13, 2001 a devastating earthquake left thousands of people dead and over one million people homeless. Through our efforts with the People Helping People Network and World In Need, Central Indiana provided much needed medical supplies, food and water to El Salvador, a third-world country in great need.”

As Honorary Consul to El Salvador, Cardwell will continue his work through the Fuller Center for Housing in building houses for families who are homeless or who are living in sacks made from old plastic trash bags, skids and any other materials they can find. In addition, Cardwell and PHP are working to complete the building of a new Children’s Burn Center in the capitol city of San Salvador, which will serve all of Central America.

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