CITY ISSUES CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR ANNUAL ACCESS AND INCLUSION AWARDS

INDIANAPOLIS – The City of Indianapolis today announces the Mayor’s Advisory Council on Disability is accepting nominations for the Annual Access and Inclusion Awards, which will be announced on July 21, 2011, at the Indianapolis Artsgarden.

“The Access and Inclusion Awards recognize and honor individuals, businesses and organizations making a difference in the lives of persons with disabilities,” said Mayor Greg Ballard. “The recipients go above and beyond the Americans with Disabilities Act to advance the full participation of individuals with disabilities in our community in the areas of employment, accessibility and lifetime service.”

To submit a nomination or learn more about the Access and Inclusion Awards ceremony, contact Juli Paini, director of the Office of Disability Affairs at (317) 327-3798 or jpaini@indy.gov. The ceremony will be held in July to mark the 21st anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This event is free and open to the public. All nominations are due by Monday, June 13. Nominations are currently being accepted for the following awards:

2011 James Pauley Lifetime Service Award: This award was established in memory of James K. Pauley, one of the founders of the Indianapolis Mayor’s Advisory Council on Disability and its chairperson from 1978 to 1980.

2011 Accessibility Award: This award recognizes individuals, businesses and organizations that have made exceptional contributions to ensure persons with disabilities can participate in events, programs and activities offered in Indianapolis. Contributions to any and all aspects of community life such as in art, culture, recreation, leisure, commerce, travel, worship and social life will be considered.

2011 Employer Award: This award recognizes individuals, businesses and organizations that have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to providing training and career opportunities to persons with disabilities.

About the Mayor’s Advisory Council on Disability
The Mayor’s Advisory Council on Disability partners with the Indianapolis Office of Disability Affairs and the Office of the Mayor to continuously build upon civic, social and economic opportunities for individuals with disabilities in Indianapolis. As a result of this partnership and the work of leaders throughout our community, the National Organization on Disability has recognized Indianapolis as a model of a disability-friendly city and named it as the winner of the 2009 Accessible America Award.

The mission of the Mayor’s Advisory Council on Disability is to promote the inclusion and empowerment of people with disabilities within the Indianapolis community, and to advise the Mayor and the City Administration on issues that impact people with disabilities.

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