

FIFTH TUESDAY
PADDOCK TO HOLD PUBLIC INPUT SESSION
REGARDING HATE CRIMES

Councilman Geoff Paddock (D-5th) will hold a public input meeting to gauge support for a resolution urging the Indiana General Assembly to enact hate crimes legislation in the next session, beginning in January of 2019. The meeting will be held:

Tuesday, October 30, 5:30 to 7 PM
Citizens Square, Room 30

There is no City Council meeting scheduled for that evening. The proposed resolution could be brought before City Council for consideration in November.

“It is my intention to ask the general public to come forward and offer their thoughts about hate crimes legislation. I am also asking some community leaders, who have expressed interest in this issue, to testify as well,” Paddock said.

“Indiana is one of only 5 states that does not have a hate crimes law on its books, and Governor Eric Holcomb has indicated he would like to see legislation passed during the next session. I think it is important the citizens of Fort Wayne support this effort. I am also contacting my colleagues on City Council to see if we can get the necessary votes to pass a resolution urging the General Assembly to act on Governor Holcomb’s request,” Paddock said. It is not known if a majority of City Council members would support a hate crimes resolution.

An updated federal hate crimes law was passed in 2009, which was expanded from the 1969 federal law, to include crimes motivated by a victim’s gender, sexual orientation, or disability. The law, signed by President Barack Obama, is intended to deter bias- motivated violence. Hate crime laws enhance the penalties associated with conduct that can result in physical and psychological harm.

The input session is scheduled to last for 90 minutes. Each individual speaking will be asked to limit their comments to two minutes. Individuals do not have to make a reservation to speak prior to the meeting. Paddock will preside over the meeting, make some initial remarks, ask for public testimony, and then close the meeting. It will be held in the City Council Committee Room in Citizens Square.