

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, March 04, 2009: Despite rumors to the contrary, the City of LaPorte has submitted a significant list of projects for consideration under the Federal stimulus program. Rumors that the City had failed to submit any projects for consideration began when a website, Stimulus Watch, posted a listing of proposed projects which failed to note that LaPorte had submitted projects for consideration.

The Stimulus Watch posting was a very preliminary and very incomplete list of projects. The primary source for the Stimulus Watch listing is the U.S. Conference of Mayor's Report, which only listed those communities which are members of the organization. Because of the annual cost of participating in the U.S. Conference of Mayors, LaPorte is not a member.

Mayor Chrobak stated that the "web posting has created a great deal of confusion and concern." The Mayor noted "that despite the impression given by the Stimulus Watch web page, the City has submitted slightly over \$32,000,000 in proposed projects. The City's proposals were submitted to both the Federal government through Congressman Donnelly and to the State through NIRPC." The Mayor noted that "thanks to the extra work of several department heads, LaPorte was able in a timely matter to develop and submit a comprehensive proposal."

"There is uncertainty, at this early stage, as to how priorities are going to be established for funding. However, we are in constant contact with NIRPC, the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, Congressman Donnelly, and Representatives Dermody and Pelath, along with State Senator James Arnold, to make sure the City of LaPorte's projects are given consideration."