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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**First Ward Neighborhood to Host Second Annual Back to School Bash**

**Kankakee, IL** – Although heading back to school looks different this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is still a need in the community for those preparing for the school year. First ward city council members Cherry Malone Marshall and Mike Prude, have partnered with several local organizations and the City of Kankakee to host their Second Annual Back to School Bash.

The event was rescheduled due to rainy weather and will now be held on Sunday, September 20, 2020 from 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at Old Fair Park. The Back to School Bash is free and open to the public while social distancing guidelines will be in place.

“We’ve been working on this event for a few months and would like to continue to help families who are not able to provide school supplies. It’s even more needed this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am overwhelmed by the response from the community, the many donations and sponsors we have received! Thank you,” said Alderwoman Cherry Malone-Marshall.

“Although the event was rescheduled, we hope to have a very successful turn out. Our goal is to always make sure we take care of the needs in our first ward and surrounding neighborhoods,” said Alderman Mike Prude.

“I appreciate our city council members who work in partnership with the City and other community partners to respond to the needs of the residents. Both Alderwoman Malone Marshall and Alderman Prude are very active in their ward and I commend them for providing solutions during these unprecedented times. This event should be a lot of fun for the community,” said Mayor Wells-Armstrong.

Free school supplies will be handed out at the Back to School Bash, along with door prizes, live music and packaged refreshments. Those who attend are also encouraged to register to vote and take the 2020 Census where direct assistance will be available

on site. Organizers are also planning on honoring local heroes throughout the community. For more information, contact Alderwoman Malone Marshall at 815-260-8650 or Alderman Mike Prude at 815-573-6905.

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The City of Kankakee is dedicated to protecting, building and nurturing the community while enhancing lives. We are a historic, vibrant, and active riverfront community. We continue to transform into an extraordinary place to dream, grow, and thrive. Embracing our diversity, we strive to be progressive, inclusive, and innovative. For more information on the City of Kankakee, please visit the website at [www.citykankakee-il.gov](http://www.citykankakee-il.gov).