PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, February 29, 2008

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EMBARGOED UNTIL 12:30 AM, FRIDAY, FEB. 29

MAYOR BALLARD MAKES LIVE POLICE RADIO BROADCAST
The following is a transcript of Mayor Ballard’s Address

INDIANAPOLIS – Transfer of IMPD authority to the Mayor, City of Indianapolis, Feb. 29, 2008 -12:01 a.m. Transmitted live via the Metropolitan Emergency Communications Agency to all law enforcement officers of IMPD.

PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR NEWMAN:

Attention all cars. This is Public Safety Director Scott Newman. The following message is being broadcast to you live over the IMPD channels of MECA, the Metropolitan Emergency Communications Agency. This message is intended for all law enforcement officers of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department. If you may safely do so at this time, please give your attention to a message from Hon. Greg Ballard, Mayor of the City of Indianapolis. This message will be repeated periodically throughout the day.

MAYOR BALLARD:

To the men and women of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, good morning. It is 12:01 a.m., and you know where your Mayor is. . .

It is my privilege to address you on this occasion. I’ll be brief. Moments ago, according to law, the authority over IMPD passed from the Office of the Sheriff of Marion County to the Mayor’s Office, City of Indianapolis.

You probably don’t feel any different. That’s because you are the same trusted, primary agents of law enforcement that the people of Indianapolis have always relied upon for the enforcement of their state and local laws.
So name it what you will - You are the City Police, and it is truly my privilege as the City’s Mayor to assume command of your Department, and to share with you the responsibility of protecting and serving all of our fellow citizens.

I want you to know these things. First, that for me and for all of you, Public Safety is Job One. It’s the most important thing that any of us do.

Second, you are valued. I support what you do, and I want to give you the tools you need to do your jobs and the recognition you deserve.

Third, I want you to believe, as I believe, that we can play a significant role in reducing crime rates. Actually reducing the incidence of crime in our city. If you want to be successful, if you want to really stay with us, you are going to have to learn to believe again in this. We can cut crime, and together, we will cut crime.

We all have our parts to play in this, and what that means will become clear as we go forward. But it starts with your new command staff. I think you’ll see that we have tried to put the right people, in the right jobs, for the right reasons.

In talking with so many of you over the past few weeks, I have been sensing a tremendous groundswell of optimism, of energy, and of desire to really get down to work.

Well, officers, it’s time to do exactly that. Let’s go to work, and please, be careful. We need each and every one of you, and your families need you at home tonight.

God bless.

PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR NEWMAN:

All officers of IMPD must be re-sworn into their official duties with the transferred department. The first and best opportunity to do so will be later today, Friday, February 29, 2008, at 1:30 p.m., at the World War Memorial on the American Legion Mall in downtown Indianapolis.

Let me repeat. There will be a city-wide roll-call to re-affirm the oaths of all officers of IMPD later today, at 1:30 p.m., at the Indiana World War Memorial, located on the American Legion Mall in downtown Indianapolis. We hope to see as many as possible in attendance, so that we may complete everything required for the transfer of authority of IMPD, and to ensure your uninterrupted powers as law enforcement officers.

Thank you, and have a good day.

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