DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY ANNOUNCES INTEGRITY PLAN FOR IMPD

INDIANAPOLIS – (July 17, 2008) Department of Public Safety Director Scott Newman and Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) Chief Michael Spears announced today a new set of integrity safeguards for IMPD. The Integrity Plan is designed to improve accountability within the Department and to ensure public confidence in the integrity of the city’s largest crime fighting agency.

“Nothing can substitute for honest men and women who understand that their career as police is a sacred trust they hold for the public. Still, it is incumbent on us to make sure that every safeguard is put in place to channel those men and women in the right direction, and to help us find out quickly when they have gone the wrong direction,” said Department of Public Safety Director Scott Newman. “We are ashamed of the actions of the few, but we are proud of the actions of the many, and we won’t hesitate to use these measures that we announce today and others to make sure the bad apples are plucked out and tossed aside.”

Key points addressed in the plan include:
• More intensive supervision of officers in the field
• Tighter accounting and inventory controls of search warrants and seizures of drugs and money
• Bringing back the previous practice of polygraph tests for officers assigned to narcotics enforcement, vice, intelligence and property room
• Creating the position of recruiter in order to ensure the department attracts the best, high quality candidates, including establishing a presence on college campuses
• Establishing a staffed Office of Career Development with the task of guiding officers toward more directed career goals, cultivating management and leadership skills, and providing more consistent evaluations and training
• Requiring performance evaluations on a regular basis

“These guidelines memorialize some of the best practices of law enforcement around the country,” said IMPD Chief Michael Spears. “These rules also safeguard the collection of evidence.”

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