PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 21, 2008

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MAYOR BALLARD ANNOUNCES COLTS HEAD COACH TONY DUNGY AS CHAIRPERSON OF EX-OFFENDER RE-ENTRY EFFORT

INDIANAPOLIS – (July 21, 2008) Mayor Greg Ballard announced today that Indianapolis Colts Head Coach Tony Dungy will serve as the Chairperson of the City’s ex-offender re-entry effort. Dungy’s role will include working with ex-offenders and potential employers.

“Coach Dungy is an inspiration and a true role model for the citizens of Indianapolis, and we are fortunate to have his leadership focused on this important public safety issue,” said Mayor Ballard. “The good work he does on the field is rivaled only by the good work he does off the field in our community.”

Mayor Ballard outlined key points of the ex-offender re-entry effort, which includes sponsoring a city ordinance that will award preference points to companies bidding on public business if those vendors commit to employing and retaining ex-offenders. The Mayor’s office will also work with the judicial branch to determine ways to be more flexible and “job-friendly” in their administration of probation requirements, such as drug testing and probation officer visits to accommodate the schedules of those individuals who successfully gain employment.

The city is in the process of making revisions to its own employment manuals to encourage supervisors to find ways to safely and productively employ ex-offenders in city jobs, and they are allowing flexibility in the supervision of ex-offenders who hold city employment to assist them in complying with their court requirements.

On August 4 and 5, the City will hold training workshops and a job fair for ex-offenders and potential employers.

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