PRESS RELEASE
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CITY PREPARES FOR WINTER SNOW SEASON

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard and City officials will announce winter preparedness plans for the upcoming 2008 – 2009 snow season today, Wednesday, October 22, 2008 at the 16th & Riverside Parking Lot, (northeast corner) from 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

The City’s mission is to provide safe streets through efficient and timely snow and ice control. This will be accomplished by more efficient management of staff time, equipment and other resources.

“While salt conservation will be critical this year, public safety is job #1,” said Mayor Ballard. “We believe that money can be saved in our snow and ice control program without a reduction in the level of service provided to residents.”

The Department of Public Works (DPW) prepares year round to handle the onslaught of winter weather that will affect more than 6,900 lane miles under our jurisdiction. With a fleet of more than 150 pieces of equipment that can be mobilized when hazardous weather is imminent for severe storms, the vehicles and equipment are put through routine maintenance checks as well as a comprehensive inspection in the fall of each year. In addition, city employees are trained annually and are required to participate in an extensive master plow training course to ensure the proper handling of vehicles and safe winter driving tactics.

“Through the hard work and dedication of our snow team and better management of our resources, said DPW Director David Sherman, “we will safely get through the upcoming season without sacrificing safety.”

Effective snow and ice control planning includes, but is not limited to, updating policies, procedures and routes; inspecting and repairing equipment; training drivers and laborers; ensuring an adequate salt supply; and coordinating efforts with school transportation officials.

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