MAYOR BALLARD ANNOUNCES
PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL DIVERSITY TASK FORCE

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard announced today the creation of the Mayor’s Public Safety Personnel Diversity Task Force. The task force is charged to review the recruitment, hiring, and promotional practices and policies within the Indianapolis Fire Department and the Indiana Metropolitan Police Department to recommend further improvements that will ensure the City’s public safety forces reflect the diversity within the Indianapolis community.

“We have made a number of changes to more strategically fight and prevent crime and, as part of that effort; I am commissioning a task force to recommend how we can increase the diversity of our public safety personnel. A workforce that is as diverse as the community it serves can best protect and serve our City,” explained Mayor Ballard. “I call on this task force to offer not just marginal changes, but transformational changes that help the City achieve diversity throughout our ranks and leadership of IMPD and IFD with fair, legal processes to get there.”

The Mayor has appointed Joe Slash, President of the Urban League, and Reverend Richard Willoughby to co-chair this task force. Slash, Willoughby, Deputy Mayor Olgen Williams, Public Safety Director Scott Newman, and Corporation Counsel Chris Cotterill are reaching out to members of the City-County Council, law enforcement professionals, members of the faith community, and others to identify individuals for the Mayor to consider appointing to the task force.

“Mayor Ballard has charged this task force with having an honest and constructive dialogue about where we are and where we need to be and he wants to further improve on the positive changes we’ve already made in IMPD and IFD,” said Deputy Mayor Williams. “We all believe this task force and its work will be a tremendous step forward for the City.”

Cotterill, Newman, and Williams have been assigned by the Mayor to assist the task force to ensure that IFD and IMPD provide the information necessary to support the task force. The Office of Corporation Counsel will provide staffing and research support for the task force. The Mayor has also asked the Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee (GIPC) to arrange public forums at the task force’s request and to encourage GIPC’s Race & Cultural Relations Leadership Network to be highly engaged in this effort.

The Mayor intends to announce the members of the task force in the coming weeks along with an Executive Order creating the task force. Open public meetings are expected to begin in April.

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