MAYOR BALLARD OUTLINES PLAN FOR FIRE CONSOLIDATION AT TOWN HALL

INDIANAPOLIS—Mayor Greg Ballard outlined his plan for fire consolidation today at a Town Hall event on the city’s Southside. The event, sponsored by the Mayors Office, the Department of Public Safety, and the Indianapolis Fire Department (IFD), was held to educate the public about the benefits of fire consolidation as well as to introduce members of the community to their newly appointed IFD firefighters.

Mayor Ballard joined by Acting Public Safety Director Mark Renner, IFD Chief Brian Sanford, Perry Township Trustee Gary Coons, and members of the public, discussed fire consolidation at former Perry Township Station 64. On August 1, 2009, Perry Station 64 was officially consolidated with IFD.

“For citizens, consolidation means a better understanding of who provides fire protection and emergency response services. It means more resources dedicated to firefighting and fire prevention, uniform emergency response tactics, an immediate reduction in the cost of service, long-term savings and efficiencies, and more effective, consistent delivery of service,” said Mayor Ballard.

In January of 2009 Mayor Ballard introduced his Unigov 2.0 initiative, which aimed to further consolidate city, county, and township services, by incorporating the city’s township fire departments into IFD’s service grid.

“We have identified significant gaps in our city’s fire and ems service and we will work to eliminate those gaps by reaching out to our remaining township departments regarding the benefits of a unified fire and ems model in Indianapolis,” said Mayor Ballard.
To date, the City of Indianapolis has consolidated Washington, Warren, and Perry Township into IFD, leaving Pike, Lawrence, Wayne, Decatur, and Franklin Township still operating as independent fire departments within the city limits.

Gary Coons, Perry Township Trustee said, “Our firefighters understood at an early point in our merger discussions, the benefits that fire consolidation provided them and the citizens they protect in Perry Township.”

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