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Eds: This release corrects list of townships not yet consolidated to include Wayne, not Warren.

**MAYOR GREG BALLARD WELCOMES LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP FIREFIGHTERS INTO IFD**

**MERGER WILL IMPROVE SERVICE AND LOWER TAXES IN LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP**

INDIANAPOLIS – The Lawrence Township Fire Department will become the fifth township fire department to merge into the Indianapolis Fire Department (IFD) effective January 1, 2011. Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard praised the consolidation that will improve service, result in lower property taxes and provide greater job security to firefighters.

“Fire consolidation is a win for the residents of those townships and the City of Indianapolis. Costs are down, service is up, and most importantly – people will pay less in property taxes for fire service in the townships that merge with IFD,” said Mayor Ballard. “With Lawrence Township joining IFD, we take another big step forward in our continuous efforts to streamline local government and reduce costs to taxpayers.”

A recent independent study of township fire consolidation shows the mergers accomplishing the goal of improving service at less cost to taxpayers. Among its many conclusions:

- Overall staffing has declined within IFD since 2006, while the non-consolidated units have increased staffing
- Consolidation has allowed IFD to reduce management and increase the number of people actually fighting fires
- Non-consolidated spending has increased nearly twice as fast as IFD since 2006
  - IFD spending has increased by 9.8 percent
  - Non-consolidated departments have increased spending 18.9 percent
- The cost of IFD services is 22 percent less per capita than in the non-consolidated areas
- Response times have remained steady while staffing on fire equipment has improved

The fire consolidation report is included with this release and IFD coverage maps are online at http://www.indy.gov/eGov/City/DPS/IFD/Stations/Pages/IFD%20Coverage%20Map.aspx.

The Lawrence Township fire merger was approved in October by the City-County Council. Only the three western townships of Pike, Wayne, and Decatur have not yet consolidated their fire departments into IFD.

Consolidation of a township fire department into IFD requires approval of the township trustee, township board, City-County Council and Mayor.

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