COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR BALLARD’S PLAN FOR LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT CONSOLIDATION WITH IFD

INDIANAPOLIS – By a vote of 20-8 Monday night, the City-County Council approved Mayor Greg Ballard’s proposal to consolidate the Lawrence Township Fire Department (LTFD) into the Indianapolis Fire Department (IFD). The merger of the departments will go into effect on January 1, 2011.

“The consolidation of LTFD into IFD provides long-term taxpayer savings and better resources for our firefighters,” Mayor Ballard said. “Township fire consolidation is part of our all-encompassing effort to reform and streamline government to provide services more effectively with property tax caps and without tax increases.”

The Lawrence Township consolidation was the most complex consolidation to date, compared to prior township fire department consolidations with IFD. The two cities of Indianapolis and Lawrence, the township, and the Castleton Volunteer Fire Department all worked together to accomplish the consolidation.

“With the transfer of 18 firefighters and a fire station from Lawrence Township Fire Department to the City of Lawrence, the township was right-sized for consolidation with IFD, and I look forward to welcoming these township firefighters into the IFD ranks,” Mayor Ballard said. “Mayor Paul Ricketts and Trustee Russell Brown rolled up their sleeves, worked through this with us, and secured a great deal for firefighters and for taxpayers of the township and our two cities. I appreciate their commitment, and I also thank Councillor Michael McQuillen for his efforts to secure bi-partisan support in the Council for this consolidation.”

With the consolidation of Lawrence Township, the City of Indianapolis has consolidated six of the nine township fire departments in Marion County, leaving only the three western townships of Pike, Warren, and Decatur operating independent fire departments within the city limits. State law currently provides for voluntary township fire consolidation, requiring the approval of the township trustee, township board, City-County Council, and Mayor.

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