MAYOR BALLARD INAUGURATES FIRST CLASS OF INDIANAPOLIS EMS

Emergency medical staff, leadership of Indianapolis EMS take oath of service

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard today inaugurated the first class of Indianapolis EMS personnel at a ceremony at the Indiana War Memorial, marking an important milestone in the city’s efforts to create a unified EMS service in Indianapolis that enhances care and efficiency through partnerships.

“This unification will facilitate improved service, enhanced quality care and lower costs to taxpayers created through greater coordination between police, fire and EMS as well as uniform training led by the IU School of Medicine,” said Mayor Ballard, who spearheaded creation of the unified EMS service. The agency was formed as a partnership between the city and Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County (HHC), with Wishard as the sponsoring hospital, and will benefit from medical leadership in quality, education, training and research from the IU School of Medicine.

A total of 297 emergency medical staff and leadership personnel are unified under Indianapolis EMS. The City announced unification plans in July 2010, and the service began operations on Dec. 26, 2010. “EMS services are a core piece of our public safety strategy, and the men and women of Indianapolis EMS have been hard at work serving the people of Indianapolis since long before today. Today’s ceremony honors their dedication as much as this new service that will serve as a national model,” said Department of Public Safety (DPS) Director Dr. Frank Straub.

Indianapolis EMS is a division of DPS and was formed via unification of Wishard and Indianapolis Fire Department EMS services. The newly created agency provides emergency medical services, including ambulance transport and prehospital care, inside historic city limits, Franklin Township and the Town of Speedway, previously served by Wishard, and Warren and Washington townships, previously served by IFD.

“This is good government, the kind of program that serves not only the people of Marion County with quality care but also stands as an example for other local governments working to identify opportunities for efficiency in the predictable and reasonable, taxpayer-focused property tax climate we in state legislature helped create,” said State Senator Jim Merritt, a proponent of the unification.

“We are appreciative of all who helped make this historic day possible, from Mayor Ballard and his team to the Department of Public Safety, our friends in state government like Sen. Merritt, and of course the men and women of Indianapolis EMS, HHC, IFD and Wishard who worked together over the last nine months to make service not only possible, but great, as it is today,” said Dr. Charles Miramonti, the first chief of Indianapolis EMS.

Indianapolis EMS today launched its website, www.IndianapolisEMS.org, and posted updates from the inauguration on Facebook (http://www.facebook.com/IndianapolisEMS) and Twitter (http://twitter.com/IndianapolisEMS), where it will continue to provide information to Indianapolis EMS personnel and the public.

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