



January 18, 2010

While some types of crime are down, strong mayoral leadership is required to make and keep our citizens safe. In one national survey, Indianapolis ranked as the fifth most dangerous city in the country. This is unacceptable and requires immediate and decisive action. The Mayor must mobilize community resources to develop effective methods of dealing with crime and monitor the effectiveness of those methods.

The Mayor needs to ensure that staffing, training, equipment and funding are sufficient to allow officers to protect Indianapolis residents. When we have sufficient IMPD officers driving, walking and riding Indianapolis neighborhoods we make it more difficult for criminals to commit crimes. That is only the first step. Indianapolis must have sufficient criminal justice resources to prosecute and incarcerate criminals. The Mayor can advocate for those resources as well as for alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders and for programs to assist in reducing recidivism. The public needs to have confidence that criminals will be apprehended and the criminal justice system will function efficiently and swiftly.

A functioning criminal justice system is aided by continued investments in programs that demonstrate results such as:

- Ex-offender re-entry programs and training
- The Indianapolis Violence Reduction Partnership
- Expanded substance abuse and mental health services
- Improved child abuse and domestic violence services and resources
- Continued neighborhood revitalization
- Coordination of mentoring programs for youth, particularly at risk youth; and
- Youth programs that impact, influence and effect at-risk youth

In addition to these activities, the metropolitan region needs a functioning mass transit system that provides regular, affordable, efficient transportation from residential areas to commercial and industrial areas. Adults and youth with access to reliable transportation are more likely to find and hold jobs, and become productive contributing members of society.

No single program or effort will reduce crime. Efforts must be undertaken in concert, evaluated for performance and modified if necessary. A city that works is a city that is a safe community in which to raise a family.

Sincerely,

Brian S. Williams

Paid for and authorized by Williams for Indianapolis, Robert Herzog Treasurer