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For More Information:
Aliya Wishner
[317.995.7645](tel:317.995.7645)
Aliya.Wishner@indy.gov

Mayor Joe Hogsett, Chief Bryan Roach provide public safety update, outline 2019 priorities

Crime Gun Intelligence Center, group violence interventions, adding more IMPD beats among plans to further improve the safety of Indianapolis neighborhoods

INDIANAPOLIS – Today, Mayor Joe Hogsett was joined by Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) Chief Bryan Roach and Director of Community Violence Reduction Shonna Majors to provide a deep dive into 2018 public safety data as well as a look ahead at 2019. New technology, a Crime Gun Intelligence Center, and the start of group violence interventions are all part of the City’s planned public safety efforts in the coming year.

“As we gather together today, there is substantial reason for hope,” said Mayor Hogsett. “We are making critical investments in technology and manpower as we prepare to roll out further initiatives to combat violent crime in Indianapolis neighborhoods. That is why we come together today – to continue our work to make this One City a safer city for all.”

Increased staffing, more beats.

The City has fully funded a net increase of 119 officers over 2015 staffing levels, allowing IMPD to return to community-based beat policing city-wide with the rollout of 78 beats in April. In 2019, IMPD plans to shrink the geographic areas of these beats and increase the number of beats to roughly 120.

Overall crime is down, clearance rate is up.

FBI Uniform Crime Reporting data indicated an 8% drop in overall crime between 2016-17. Data through September 2018 shows overall crime down an additional 5%.

Data also indicates preliminary signs of success in homicide reductions following the implementation of Mayor Hogsett’s violent crime reduction strategy this summer. The City experienced a 17% reduction in homicides from July 1 – December 10 of this year as compared to 2017. 2018 also saw a significant increase in IMPD’s clearance rate, from roughly 42% in 2017 to 65% in 2018.

A focus on serial offenders and crime guns.

IMPD has increased collaboration with federal and local law enforcement partners and improved its tactics for collecting crime gun evidence using specially-trained “gun liaison” officers. These efforts have led to a 99% increase in the average number of daily leads

generated through the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network, roughly 1500 gun cases filed by the Marion County Prosecutor's Office, and double the number of IMPD gun cases filed in federal court compared to 2017. A focus on investigating serial robberies has led to a nearly 15% decrease in robberies to date in 2018 – decreasing the potential for the non-fatal shootings and homicides that are often associated with these crimes.

In 2019, IMPD will formally launch the Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC), an interagency collaboration focused on the timely collection, management, and analysis of crime gun evidence to identify serial shooters, disrupt violent crime, and remove crime guns from the community. With the support of crime analysts, CGIC will help IMPD target the most violent offenders and their sources of crime guns, an embrace of the technology-led precision policing model.

Disrupting the spread of violence.

In 2018, the Office of Public Health and Safety (OPHS) hired a Director of Community Violence Reduction and two Indy Peacemakers who work in high-crime neighborhoods to conduct one-on-one interventions. Two more Peacemakers will join OPHS in 2019. IMPD identified 105 individuals through the Indianapolis Violence Reduction Partnership this year, resulting in 33 arrests and 47 referrals for community interventions.

In 2019, IMPD and OPHS will convene law enforcement partners, community organizations, and faith leaders to begin conducting group violence interventions. This model will target groups of people at highest risk for perpetrating or becoming a victim of violence to deliver a collective message that the community disapproves of the violence, that there will be consequences and targeted enforcement if the violence continues, and that support and healthier options are available to help them break the cycle of violence.

Community partnership.

In 2018, the City invested roughly \$3 million in neighborhood organizations engaged in crime prevention. Next year, the dollars budgeted for neighborhood-based crime prevention will grow to close to \$4 million.

The formation of Community Resource District Councils has helped to strengthen partnerships with community and faith leaders, leading to better coordination of intervention efforts with at-risk individuals and their known associates. A new \$300,000 witness assistance fund has so far allowed 12 families to safely participate in the investigation and prosecution of 7 separate cases.

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