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Mayor Joe Hogsett Announces Partnership to Re-Imagine Public Safety in Indianapolis

City will partner with NYU School of Law Criminal Justice Lab

INDIANAPOLIS – Today, Mayor Joe Hogsett, IMPD Chief Randal Taylor, and NYU School of Law Professor and former New Jersey Attorney General Anne Milgram announced a partnership between the City of Indianapolis and the NYU School of Law Criminal Justice Lab aimed at reforming public safety in Indianapolis. The partnership will identify and on-board community partners, provide a place for public input and community dialogue, identify and analyze critical public safety data, and build community-wide consensus around an ongoing series of policy recommendations and proposals for change.

"We hope this project can serve as the catalyst for a new, community-driven and community-monitored definition of justice and public safety. This is a defining moment in our nation's history, and it must be met with a unified vision for the future of the city of Indianapolis," said Mayor Hogsett.

Professor Milgram is a former Department of Justice Civil Rights Prosecutor and former New Jersey Attorney General. As New Jersey Attorney General, Professor Milgram led the reformation of the Camden, N.J. police department – a department whose policies are now considered a national model.

"A history of bias, racism and inequality in law enforcement has come to a critical junction that requires a swift response if we are to achieve justice and equity. We are witnessing this across the country, and we recognize the need for deep, systemic change to our police departments and public safety infrastructure," said Professor Milgram. "What we propose is a partnership that redefines policing, justice, and public safety in Indianapolis, and forms metrics to hold government accountable for eliminating institutional bias, racism, and inequality and for improving community safety."

"Our existing approach to policing and accountability leads to an entirely reactive approach to crime, and limits the ability of law enforcement to work as partners with the community to increase public safety. It is simply not enough to wait for crime to occur before we react; we must look upstream to the racial disparities in our health, education and housing systems as well as our gross income inequality to be able to truly address the disease of racism in this country, not just the symptoms," said City-County Council President Vop Osili.



The partnership will bring together subject matter experts with local stakeholders, provide opportunities for public input coordinated by Community Solutions, Inc., and work to build consensus for swift action. With many individuals, organizations, City agencies, and corporations wanting to contribute to change, the partnership will help coordinate these responses so that Indianapolis' work at this critical moment is unified and amplified.

Engagement will proceed in the following fashion:

1. The first step in the project will be a public-driven convening of community members, law enforcement, public defenders, health, education, social service, housing agencies, and others. This convening is necessary to create a new definition of justice and public safety that represents equitable and fair enforcement of the law.
2. Once community stakeholders have defined justice and public safety for Indianapolis, the partnership will work with them to define the specific metrics to be collected and monitored. This will require several data analysts to be hired to work alongside the city agencies to ensure they have the capacity to collect and share the data required, which NYU will manage and fund. Metrics are critical as a means to hold law enforcement agencies accountable to the standard of equitable public safety defined by the community.
3. The project requires, and the City is committed to, collecting and sharing relevant data.
4. At various stages, the partnership will set forth and advocate for specific, consensus-driven policies before the City-County Council or other relevant agencies.
5. Finally, the partnership will create a community-driven report card that is transparent and publicly accessible on the City's website, ensuring members of the public have a mechanism to regularly hold city-county government accountable.

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The NYU Criminal Justice Lab is led by Anne Milgram and Katy Brodsky Falco. Anne worked as a civil rights prosecutor and oversaw the transformation of the Camden Police Department as New Jersey's Attorney General. She also oversaw a racial profiling consent decree. She has worked extensively with data and systems change and has come to believe that we need upstream solutions that go beyond our individual, siloed government agencies and that are deeply rooted in the communities we serve. Katy worked as Executive Director of Crime Lab New York, a criminal justice research organization that partners with civic and community leaders to identify, test, and help scale the programs and policies with the greatest potential to improve lives. She also served as Executive Director of Assessments and Reentry Services at the New York City Department of Correction, where she implemented national best practices and piloted the use of evidence-based assessment tools.

