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Mayor Joe Hogsett, IMPD Command Staff, OPHS Leadership Deliver Public Safety Update

Briefing comes ahead of August 9 proposed fiscal package

INDIANAPOLIS – Today, Mayor Joe Hogsett joined Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Chief Randal Taylor, Assistant Chief Chris Bailey, and Office of Public Health and Safety Director Lauren Rodriguez to provide an overview of 2021 public safety data and ongoing efforts ahead of the proposed 2022 budget and allocation request of American Rescue Plan funds.

“Indianapolis is not alone in the rising tide of violence, but we are clear-eyed about the challenges we face locally,” said Mayor Hogsett. “The efforts outlined today demonstrate a violence reduction strategy centered around investments in traditional law enforcement, grassroots violence prevention through community partnerships, and addressing the root causes of violent crime. The addition of federal dollars will give a significant boost to these ongoing initiatives.”

Summary of Recent Events

Identifying those most at-risk:

In April 2021, IMPD created violence reduction teams and violence reduction task forces. Violence reduction teams and task forces work the hours when most violent crime is committed. From April 5 to July 23, 2021, the Violence Reduction Teams (VRT) and Violent Crime Task Force (VCTF) recovered more than 300 guns and made more than 900 arrests for alleged criminal activity.

The Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC) continues to use forensics and intelligence to investigate and disrupt gun-related crime. As of August 1, CGIC has seized 174 guns and made 163 arrests. In July, the General Assembly created the Indiana Crime Guns Task Force, which turns IMPD CGIC into a regional CGIC. The first agencies to join were Avon Police Department, Carmel Police Department, and Zionsville Police Department. Additional agencies will be added this fall with all seven surrounding counties represented.

In addition, the OPHS Violence Reduction Team engages with the wider department to conduct weekly shooting reviews and identify those most at risk of committing violent acts. This targeted approach utilizes national strategies to focus on shooters rather than just shootings. After identifying these high-risk individuals, OPHS conducts personalized outreach, presenting the emotional and practical consequences of committing gun violence and connecting individuals to any resources necessary to live a safe, violence-free lifestyle.

Accountability & transparency

After calls for transparency and accountability from the community, IMPD created civilian-majority Use of Force and General Orders boards, which are now meeting following training by board



members. Following the deployment of body cameras for patrol officers, a total of eight Critical Incident Videos have been produced and shared with the media and the public. All critical incident videos are reviewed by community members.

Focus on mental health

Since 2016, the City of Indianapolis and IMPD have emphasized responding to those experiencing a mental health crisis by connecting those individuals to treatment rather than arrest or jail. Currently, all IMPD officers are trained in mental health first aid.

Additionally, the Mobile Crisis Assistance Team (M-CAT) continue to focus on connecting individuals suffering from mental health and substance use issues to the most appropriate services. M-CAT is a partnership between the IMPD and Eskenazi Hospital, focusing on real time crises and active police runs. A total of 182 M-CAT responses were completed during the second quarter of 2021. Ninety-six percent of M-CAT runs do not result in an arrest.

The Assessment and Intervention Center (AIC), a cornerstone of the Community Justice Campus and the mayor's larger criminal justice reform efforts, opened in December of 2020 to divert low-level, non-violent offenders experiencing mental health crises to treatment and services rather than jail. To date, the AIC has processed 1,061 encounters. In addition to mental health services, the AIC provides other wraparound supportive services to address issues of housing, employment, and other needs. Clients can stay at the AIC as long as needed, utilizing all resources free of charge.

OPHS Community Violence Reduction Team

The OPHS Community Violence Reduction Team engages a variety of stakeholders to connect resources to those most at-risk of violence. In partnership with IMPD, OPHS Peacemakers identify these high-risk individuals and work with them to find peaceful solutions to conflicts and alternative options to a life of gun violence and crime. OPHS also administers over \$4 million in grassroots investments to support this process, empowering local organizations and creating meaningful partnerships between all who are working to reduce violence in our community.

Interrupter Program in inaugural year

Earlier this year, the Indy Public Safety Foundation established Indianapolis' first interrupter program in partnership with OPHS, employing individuals with deep roots in the community to act as credible messengers and interrupt conflicts with active threats. Interrupters are purposely not affiliated with law enforcement to give them the ability to engage with highly influential individuals at the center of gun violence, interrupting the cycle of violence as it's happening. As of August 4, 427 conflicts have been interrupted through this program.