

Statement from Sheriff Frank J. Anderson regarding amendments to City-County Council Proposal 6-2008

In 2002, I was elected Marion County Sheriff upon a pledge of public safety, not politics. I kept that pledge during 2005 when the City-County Council voted to consolidate the Indianapolis Police Department and the law enforcement divisions of the Marion County Sheriff's Department.

In 2006, the people of Marion County reelected me as their Sheriff with more than 122,000 votes because I again placed public safety over politics. In 2007, I oversaw the initiation of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department. It was an outstanding beginning and I am extremely proud of the men and women of IMPD. As I have said repeatedly, it's not about the brown, not about the blue, it's about what we do. While tragic, the Hovey Street murders confirmed that we have an exceptional and committed team of law enforcement professionals protecting our city.

Last year, Mayor Greg Ballard also made a pledge to voters. That pledge was based upon his belief in unity of command, including the police and fire departments, emergency management and their financial support. We disagreed on this point and we disagreed on how the issue should be resolved. However, the law provides that the City-County Council must resolve the issue. With a partisan split of 16 Republicans and 13 Democrats, this by necessity, involves politics and a political resolution.

However, ever mindful of my pledge to put politics aside and advocate for better public safety, Mayor Ballard and I analyzed this issue and concluded that we have a unique opportunity. Our first commitment in this process was easy: civil discourse on the subject. We hope to set a new tone for all of local government in Marion County. That discourse led to deeper analysis of public safety and its betterment for this city and county.

Amendments have been proposed to Proposal 6 to reflect a new public safety partnership that will assure that the Sheriff's experience will be utilized in all law enforcement activities in the county. Thus, the Sheriff will have substantive and meaningful input as to the operations of IMPD. However, day-to-day operations will be under the Public Safety Director as pledged by Mayor Ballard. I have tremendous respect for Director Scott Newman and welcome him into this public safety partnership with the Mayor. I will consult with the Mayor, the Director, and the Chief on IMPD matters and serve as a member of the IMPD merit board. My involvement will help ensure the long-term success of this new law enforcement agency.

In addition to my duties and responsibilities for IMPD, I am responsible for the Marion County Sheriff's Department. Nearly 1,000 employees – civilians and deputies – serve public safety in the jail division, communications division, civil office, warrants,

and sexual and violent offender registries. Beyond the amendments to Proposal No. 6, Mayor Ballard and I have agreed to enhance public safety through these other divisions.

This is just the beginning of what I believe is going to be a very unique approach to law enforcement. I welcome Mayor Ballard and Director Newman, and thank them for putting public safety first for the people of this great city and county.