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Wednesday, February 06, 2008

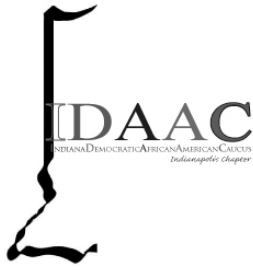
To Whom This May Concern c/o Public Defender's Agency:

The Indiana Democratic African-American Caucus wishes to congratulate Dave Cook on his leadership of the Marion Public Defender Agency. We believe that his leadership in the initial development of the agency has benefited the most vulnerable in Marion County. We hope that the new Public Defender will be a vigorous advocate for the indigent as well.

As an organization interested in promoting positive public policy we are also interested in making sure that in the selection of a new Marion County Public Defender that certain issues are taken into consideration. Specifically:

1) We are concerned about the practice of public defenders utilizing tax payer dollars to identify clients who come through the public defender agency and then represent the same client in the private sector. What policies are you putting in place to prevent this practice? Is increasing the salary of public defenders a viable option?

2) We are also interested in the level of representation that is provided for some of the most vulnerable in our society. The biggest challenge to understanding how the public defender agency operates with this



regard is the availability of data whereby the citizen or interested parties might be able to discern who is receiving your services and how their cases are resolved. A perusal of the annual reports suggests that you are collecting important information about the kinds of cases your agency litigates. We however are interested in learning more about the socio-economic and racial disposition of those the agency represents. What is the socio-economic and racial composition of those who receive the most plea agreements? Who is receiving the most significant charges and how is your agency litigating those cases?

We understand that the judicial system has many different actors that can impact the litigation of an individual's case. We want to better understand the Public Defender Agency's role. We would like to encourage a dialog on these issues with all parties involved. We would welcome a presentation from your agency on these issues and anticipate a response from the leadership of the agency.

Best Regards,

Marshawn Wolley

President

IDAAC, Indianapolis