



IDAAC
P.O. Box 2926
Indianapolis, IN 46206

October 16, 2009

To the Marion County Guardians Home Reuse Committee,

The Indianapolis Democratic African American Caucus writes in support of creating a 24-bed licensed emergency shelter care program at the Marion County Guardians Home. Currently a discussion is underway, amongst interested parties, concerning the fate of the Guardians Home. A long time fixture in the Irvington neighborhood of Indianapolis, for 120 years the Guardians Home provided congregate care for juveniles, who for various reasons were removed from their families. The facility was recently saved from complete closure by action from community activists, the City-County Council and swift and thoughtful action from numerous elected officials, many of whom we count amongst our caucus membership.

We write in support of one of at least two options currently before the Guardian Home Reuse Committee, because the proposed 24-bed licensed emergency shelter care program offers the greatest chance for federal reimbursement funding. IDAAC takes an interest in this issue as African American children are disproportionately in need of the services provided by the Guardians Home, with members of our caucus having benefited from the services in their youth. The home also had a \$12 million renovation in 2001, funded by both government and private funding, which speaks to the community's interest in maintaining the use of the facility in Marion County.

We ask that the Guardian Home Reuse Committee consider and approve the 24-bed licensed emergency shelter care program at the Marion County Guardians Home.

Sincerely,

Marshawn Wolley
President,
IDAAC-Indy