

## **IRVINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**October 18, 2022**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lesli Gibson, Charles Miller, Andrea De Mink, Robert Uhlenhake, Francine Calvert Lee, Ronak Shaw, Lys Lauer, Jacob Lauer, Dawn Briggs, Chad Cerda, Carrie Yazell, Sue Beecher

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Ryan Mears, Marion County Prosecutor up for re-election; Tom Dewell and Tim McMillen, Marion County Public Health Department, IMPD Commander Richard Riddle, David Ray, Indianapolis City-County Councilor for District 19, Jason Larrison, Indianapolis City-County Councilor for District 12, Brennen Edwards, Indianapolis Neighborhood Liaison, Lauren Hall Bushman, Executive Director of Irvington Counseling, Karla Lopez-Owens, Marion County Prosecutor's Office

The meeting was held in person at the Irvington Presbyterian Church, open to the public, and called to order by Lesli Gibson at 7:06 pm who opened the meeting by welcoming Council members, guests, and public attendees.

**Approval of Minutes:** The September minutes will be approved off-line by the Council.

Ryan Mears the current Marion County Prosecutor who is running for re-election introduced himself to the attendees. He has worked in the Prosecutor's Office since 2006 and took over leadership of the office when Terry Curry died in June of 2021. His wife grew up at 10<sup>th</sup> and Leland on the eastside graduating from Secina High School. Ryan believes his offices' resources should be utilized for violent crime versus cases involving low level marijuana charges. He is aware that a huge racial disparity exists within the criminal justice system and wants to work to reduce this. He stated that he will not prosecute women under Indiana's new, restrictive abortion law as he believes it be unconstitutional. He believes charging women under this law, which is felony level and could result in a 1–6-year prison sentence, "sends a terrible message". He believes he can make people safer by prosecuting violent crimes and bringing closure to the victims' families. His office has begun hosting "second chance" fairs and working to expunge the records of those who have been convicted of low-level offenses allowing them to be eligible for housing and employment. His office has partnered with employers including Eli Lilly to work to change hiring policies. He believes the Prosecutor's office can set the tone for the community by being fair and implementing fairness in legal activities.

### **Updates:**

#### **Jason Larrison, City-County Council District 12 Representative**

- 1) Jason introduced Tom Dewell and Tim McMillen with the Marion County Public Health Department to update the Council on the status of the Irvington Arms Apartments. They provided a timeline of events: 8/16/22 initial inspection, 9/22 reinspection, 10/16/22 filed an environmental case in court, and 10/31/22 a scheduled reinspection. They were initially unable to get into the building but did gain access to the common areas. There has been a change in management and the distrust of the residents has increased. The initial order from their agency was for repair of the building and not removal of the residents. Although an order to vacate could be pursued there are no plans to do so at this time. Marion County Public Health is coordinating efforts with the Indianapolis Department of Business and Neighborhood Services which is the city agency responsible for enforcing municipal codes. This agency has filed five suits related to the Irvington Arms Apartments. CRM Management currently oversees the building, and the owner has

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submitted a three-phase plan to repair it. Commander Riddle provided an overview of IMPD's coordination with the city and county agencies specific to the Irvington Arms situation. IMPD met with the Our Lady of Lourdes school principal in May of 2022 to listen to the school's concerns. Commander Riddle stated that 19 major felony arrests have occurred at Irvington Arms with all of them being filed by the Marion County Prosecutor's Office. Unfortunately, the recent murder that occurred is still unsolved. He sees the biggest issue as the fact that the building was unsecured allowing non-renters into the building. These individuals could not be evacuated during COVID. He also clarified that the civil eviction process is the jurisdiction of the Marion County Sheriff's Office and not IMPD. He is in support of a timeline being set for repair of the building and enforced. A recent appellate decision precludes the number of police runs to a building to be considered when working to classify a property as a "nuisance". The City County Council is working with outside legal counsel to change this and there appears to be some support at the Statehouse for this.

- 2) Jason stated that efforts are underway for a TIF District to be designated in Irvington before the end of 2022. This process would allow for the income and tax value of the Harvester site, Irvington Plaza, and the business district along Washington Street to be used for improvements to the parks and other areas of Irvington. This project would require a neighborhood advisory board to work with the city of Indianapolis. Grants and partnerships with federal agencies would be sought to maximize this funding.

### **Brennan Edwards, Indianapolis Neighborhood Liaison**

- 1) October is Domestic Violence Month.
- 2) Monthly email newsletters from the mayor's office will be reinstituted.
- 3) Many Halloween activities are being planned with Indianapolis trick or treat hours from 6-8 pm on October 31.
- 4) IndyGo will provide free rides to the polls on Election Day.
- 5) Nominations for the 2022 Marion County Service Awards are being accepted through 11/1/22.

### **Karla Lopez-Owens, Marion County Prosecutor's Office**

The Community Justice Academy begins tomorrow and runs through next Wednesday, October 26.

### **Lauren Hall-Bushman, Executive Director of Irvington Counseling**

Lauren comes to the Council seeking support for a zoning variance to allow her to move her business to a residential home on Good Avenue. The Council fully supports the Historic District covenants and will not support this proposal.

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#### **Old Business:**

David Kingen stated that he has withdrawn a previously requested variance for parking as it is no longer needed. The truck repair business will have the number of bays reduced from 11 to 8 reducing the size from 12,000 to 9,000 square feet. He stated the alley will need to be vacated and an arborist plan will be completed.

#### **New Business:**

- 1) The 2022 Halloween Festival updates are now listed on the website. The Ball is this coming Saturday, October 22. Street closure information has been distributed to the neighborhood.
- 2) IDO has an upcoming meeting to be held on October 24 at Black Acre with the purpose of discussing the “Main Street Initiative”. .

#### **Open Forum:**

- 1) Amber Collins introduced herself as a candidate for Circuit Judge where she would oversee civil cases.
- 2) Faith James Kimbrough introduced herself as a candidate for Marion County Recorder. She left us with her campaign motto of “liens, deeds, mortgages and more”.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Beecher