

HISTORIC IRVINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes for February 18, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT (quorum at 12): Chad Cerda, Jake Walker, John Arbuckle, Kyla Thompson, Dawn Cox Briggs, Francine Calvert Lee, Sue Beecher, Robert Uhlenhake, Ronak Shah, Jordan Byrd, Leslie Gibson, Andrea De Mink, Charles Miller

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for the previous month, **January 2025**, were **approved unanimously with no noted dissents**.

Updates from Andrew J. Bochnicka, Field Representative, Office of Congressman Andre Carson (317-416-4189, andrew.bochnicka@mail.house.gov)

- Congressman Carson is reintroducing bills that were introduced last session for the new Congress
- [Virtual Town Hall](#) coming up tomorrow for constituents to propose and introduce new legislation
- [Youth Opportunities Fair](#): Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at the Ivy Tech Community College Culinary and Conference Center from 12-7pm.
- Valentines for Vets: students around Marion County created 5,500 Valentines for veterans.
- Many things are happening in D.C., but the biggest focus has been around agencies being shuttered and gutted. Rep. Carson has been refused access to many of the agencies when he has come to get information. Cuts to Medicaid and Social Security have also been top of mind.
- **Blue Line**: Did the federal money that was allocated for the Blue Line get out of D.C. in time?
 - \$150 million will cover construction from where it passes under the interstate to Shadeland.
 - The money was appropriated by Congress, and if the Executive Branch tries to slow down the process, it will be a quick and easy lawsuit.

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department East District Updates

- Crime numbers continue to fall in the Irvington neighborhood. Auto theft has been relatively flat, and is still the biggest area of crime in Irvington and on the east of Indianapolis. Hyundai and Kia locks are available.
- There does not seem to be a theft ring in the Irvington area tied to the rickshaw theft that occurred, which took place in Homeroft and was recovered in Southeast district.
- **How to look up police runs**: maps.indy.gov, go to Mapping Application for Public Safety.
- **Immigration**: IMPD Chief Bailey released a statement saying that IMPD is not an immigration enforcement agency. IMPD's focus is on enforcing state and local laws. The governor of Indiana directed the state police to cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, but local law enforcement is not involved.
- **Homelessness**: Contact IMPDHomeless@indy.gov for long-term issues. For acute issues in dangerous weather, such as extreme cold, contact 911.
- **IMPD East District Task Force Meeting**: March 12th at the headquarters at Eastgate Mall.
- **5th Annual Breann Leath Memorial Blood Drive**: April 18th
- **Community Day @ Brookside Park**: July 9th from 11am to 2pm

Updates from [Andy Nielsen](#), City County Council District 14 (317-283-9680, andy.nielsen@indy.gov)

- **Snow Policy**: Going forward this year, residential streets will be plowed when snowfall reaches 4 inches. Council is working on a policy to make this change permanent.
- **Irvington Plaza**: Hearing upcoming about development on the site
- **IACS**: Hearing tomorrow to determine if Interim Director Kelly Diamond will become permanent

Updates from [Jenny Menelas](#), Neighborhood Advocate (317-327-5126, jenny.menelas@indy.gov)

- Recent calls to the Mayor's Action Center have been about stolen trash cans, snow, and potholes
- [Indianapolis Warming Centers](#) are not currently open during the cold weather, but Jenny will share updates as they become open. Staffing them overnight has been a challenge.
- Vision Zero survey is out seeking feedback from residents. Survey can be found [here](#).
- [Office of Minority and Women Business Development](#): March 3rd workshop at Eagle Branch Library on how to certify businesses as minority-owned, women-owned, or veteran-owned.
- **Question on Animal Care Services**: Given all of the complaints from the public about Kelly Diamond's leadership, why is the city continuing to support her candidacy?

Maureen Wilson Runkle, ICAN (Irvington Community Advocacy Network) and IAC (Irvington Arts Collective)

- [ICAN](#) has been serving the east side of Indianapolis for over ten years to coordinate resources among the churches to support people with food, clothing, medical and legal assistance, and other resource needs.
 - Churches include Irvington United Methodist Church, Irvington Presbyterian Church, Our Lady of Lourdes, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, St. Matthews Episcopal Church, and others in the area
- In 2023, ICAN served over 1,000 clients. This doubled in 2024 to over 2,000 clients.
- Reminder that besides 911, 988 is the hotline for suicidal ideation, and 211 is the number for non-emergency assistance such as food, housing, utility assistance, and healthcare needs.
- ICAN office is located in the Irvington United Methodist Church on the bus line.
- **Immediate needs**: Seasonal changes – clothing is most critical in the winter. Downey Avenue Food Pantry has been going through a transition, leading to a shortfall in support, so canned food is a big need. Hygiene kits are in high demand during the summer.

Brewfest Committee Updates

- April 26th, 2025 from 7:00 pm-10:30 pm at Our Lady of Lourdes
- 10 breweries will be competing for the trophy!
- Tickets are \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door (if not sold out). \$50 for the VIB experience to get in at 6pm.
- \$10 for a designated driver ticket, but must be 21 or older to attend
- Live music by RougHouse! Bus Stop Bistro will be serving food, with another truck to be announced soon
- Proceeds will benefit arts programs at Thomas Carr Howe Middle School and the Tri-Kappa East service sorority college scholarship fund

Open Forum

- Howe Middle School thanks the Council for their support through the proceeds of Beastside Brewfest! Spring sports are starting up this month, including tackle and flag football, track & field, and golf. The construction crew is working on masonry and drainage right now. The track and the north lot of the building should be done in March when the weather clears up, and then will start working on the ball fields. The goal would be for all construction to be done by next fall. Elementary feeder schools will have a chance to visit and choose their electives, including an instrument petting zoo. Open Houses will be on Thursday, February 27th and Tuesday, March 12th, from 6:30 to 7:30. Howe was able to host Julian students when they had a fire earlier this week. Howe is building out a clothing, hygiene, and resource closet at the school, and is also collecting historic Howe memorabilia if you have it!

The meeting was adjourned at []pm. Respectfully submitted by Ronak Shah.