Guns Don’t Shoot Themselves

What it means
The following elements of this plan address the longer-term comprehensive solutions to our City’s crime problems. They focus on community engagement with law enforcement that enables proactive policing (vs reactive), tackling the root causes of crime, and transparency to enable good management and public accountability. But in the immediate short term we must stem the crisis of violence that is gripping our streets.

Why?
Because we cannot move to the long term crime agenda without restoring a normal environment. And because we cannot move onto the other giant issues facing the city unless a sustainable baseline of public safety is established.

How?
Guns don’t shoot themselves, and even the essential gun regulations I advocate will not in and of themselves solve our violent crime problem. People, mostly young men, commit these violent crimes and those criminals must be removed from our streets. The so-called “revolving door” in which the same offenders have brief encounters with the criminal justice system in between successive crimes must end. (More than one police officer has said to me: “we know which ~200 people are the source of ~90% of the violent crime; if we could get them off the streets, violent crime will drop through the floor.”)

Fundamentally, serious crime must have serious consequences. Inter-agency coordination is required for every link in the chain of the justice system to hold. I will back the police in doing the work of getting violent offenders, especially repeat offenders, off our streets. I will work with the prosecutor to get all elements of law enforcement in Indianapolis on that same page. And my office will provide transparency into every aspect of this process: police actions, prosecutor actions and the actions of criminal court justices, as former Mayor Ballard did, through the Office of Audit and Performance (OAP). This must be part of the social contract for local government; we cannot hold the various branches of government accountable for results unless citizens can easily see those results.