Coordination with Community Leaders

What It Means
A public safety plan must have a community approach to lowering crime focused on grassroots and neighborhood engagement. Community groups play a substantial role in preventing retaliatory homicides and violence.

Why?
IMPD, no matter how fully staffed, can’t fix our crime issues alone. A police force is just that - partly about force. No matter how many police officers a city has, people trust neighbors who show concern for the mutual welfare of their community. Neighborhood and community associations can be trusted because they are outside of political influence (27). However, many community programs that can have a positive impact are drastically underfunded.

How?
As mayor, I will increase funding to these community-led groups and get behind efforts to prevent violent crime from the ground up by giving them the resources they need to strengthen anti-violence social norms and peer relationships. Though some funding continues to find its way to ex-offender groups which are crucial, these groups do not have the same impact on reducing violent crime (28). Increasing funding to groups focused on violent crime reduction is a crucial part in decreasing crime at the community level through intervention and prevention.

Reinstating Mayor’s Night Out

What It Means
Input from the community is crucial in attacking our city’s struggles from the ground up. Mayor’s Night Out is - was - a way for the mayor and city-government leaders to hear directly from community members.

Why?
Joe Hogsett is a photo-op mayor, who will show up for 10 events in a day to take photos or cut ribbons but not stay to engage residents in the places where he’s needed. According to all readily available records, Joe Hogsett has never hosted such an event.

How?
As mayor, I will reinstate the Mayor’s Night Out program. These will be events where the focus won’t be hearing from me, but rather hearing from neighbors. These opportunities will be open for all to attend and share concerns and possible solutions. I will attend these in every community, lending an ear to hear and learn from residents who wish to share their stories. I will appear in all 9 townships in the first 90 days of my term, and repeat visits regularly. I will ensure that the word gets out by notifying community organizations, neighborhood groups, and business leaders. I will ensure that information can be found online through the mayor’s office and that dates and times maximize participation.

28. Community Violence Intervention Overview
Improving Community-Police Relations

What It Means
Growing our city's police force is not effective unless the community-police relationship is strong. Police officers should view themselves as part of the community in which they serve and our city government must encourage them to prove it with actions. Positive interactions between police and community members build the mutual trust essential to good law enforcement.

Why?
Last year, nearly two-thirds of crimes committed in Indianapolis were unsolved (29). This is unacceptable. A low clearance rate (solved crimes) is evidence that the community-police relationship is broken. Potential informants and victims need to work with police investigators to solve crime. These are often very difficult conversations. Information shared between community members and the police will not only help solve crimes, but help officers recognize potential threats.

How?
As mayor, I will incentivize - financially and otherwise - our city's police officers to engage with the community not only in their role as law enforcement officers, but as members of our community as well. Our police officers' involvement in the community should be viewed as crucial to maintaining peace, and part of basic performance metrics for our officers.

The Growth in IMPD Needs to Reflect the Demographics of Indianapolis

What It Means
Indianapolis is a diverse city and our diversity continues to grow rapidly (30). Living in Indianapolis may also mean you live in Broad Ripple, Fountain Square, or Haughville. Unique neighborhoods have unique challenges. Unique challenges across neighborhoods require unique solutions that are better implemented by those that share similar backgrounds with neighborhood residents. Growing the number of officers within IMPD is important, but so is recognizing the need for as many home-grown officers as possible.

Why?
A police force that sufficiently reflects the demographics of a city is a crucial part of building trust with the communities they serve. They are neighbors, friends, and family and they are there to keep peace and maintain safety.

How?
I will be purposeful in recruitment and retention strategies to ensure our city's officers mirror the residents they serve and protect. Recruitment should be occurring throughout the city, with geographic metrics. Recruiting should begin in our schools, and offer students the opportunity to learn about the profession. Non-profit community organizations and centers can have a formal role in recruitment. Through targeted outreach programs and marketing we can reach quality residents of Indianapolis with diverse backgrounds that may never have previously considered a career in law enforcement. None of this is possible if potential recruits don't believe the department and its mayor will treat them fairly. As mayor, I will.

29. IMPD 2022 homicide clearance rate at 35%
30. Indianapolis Racial Equity Report Card - SAVI