Hire a Public Safety Director

What it means
Joe Hogsett ran on the promise that he would be his own public safety director. He kept his word, and we are three years (at minimum) past the point of obvious failure. Good executive leaders know how to adapt to changing circumstances and even admit when they were wrong. Alternatively, one of the hallmarks of politicians is a stubbornness about changing views due to the fear of admitting failure. Indianapolis has been paying the price for his stubborn politics for years. Our city has a full time parks and recreation director and a full time director of public works. The chief responsibility of government - public safety - certainly requires a full time director as well.

Why?
Eight years of the Hogsett administration has brought Indy’s record highest number of homicides at 271 (2021) (1), and has seen three years in a row of total homicides eclipsing 225 (2020-22) (2). We are on pace to eclipse 200 again in 2023 (3). Joe Hogsett has the worst crime record of any mayor in the history of Indianapolis.

How?
As mayor, I will hire a public safety director whose sole focus is the security of lives and property. The PSD must be a professional with executive experience, not just a public figurehead. This person must have the credibility to integrate IMPD operations with other areas of government. I will, in turn, provide the public safety director the resources needed to do the job. Various departments of city government can address the quality of life issues that affect crime — hunger, deeply-rooted mental health issues, dependency issues and economic blight. Unified leadership and accountability is required.

As mayor, I will also require my Public Safety Director to audit school safety throughout Marion County, working with administrative officials to implement school safety plans with funds appropriated from the Secured School Safety Grant program from the State (4). Police officers must also be familiar with schools in their patrol areas and establish relationships to ensure a quick and effective response if there is a need.

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1. Indianapolis had 271 homicides in record-breaking 2021
2. Indianapolis Homicides in 2020: Victim Demographics, Percentage Solved: Indianapolis ends year with fewer homicides, but numbers still "too high," chief says
3. 2023 Indianapolis Homicide Tracker
4. Secured School Safety Grant Program - DHS