



June 16th, 2020

Dear Mayor Hogsett and President Osili,

The ACLU of Indiana is encouraged with recent public acknowledgements by city leaders that the underlying problem with policing isn't the result of a few failed policies or a couple of bad apples. The problem is the outsized and ever-expanding scale of policing that leads inevitably to officers' unlawful use of excessive force and the killing of Black men and women.

We agree that the whole community must seize this moment and recognize that only completely reimagining policing will achieve safety and justice for the residents of our city. The ACLU of Indiana will be vigilant and look for tangible evidence of the commitment of city leadership.

Most immediately, we will look for more robust changes to police use-of-force policies, a 2020 budget that commits to divesting from police and reinvesting in communities targeted by police, a new police labor contract with increased accountability, and a public process that demonstrates real and sustained community engagement in creating a new Public Safety system from the ground up.

The proposed use-of-force policy issued June 4 does not go far enough. To save lives immediately, a revised policy should also:

- Require exhaustion of all alternatives before shooting
- Include a use of force continuum
- Create a civilian dominated Use-of-Force Board
- Ban the use of tear gas against peaceful protestors

But, as has been acknowledged, tweaking use-of-force and other policies has not brought meaningful change in other cities, devastating murders at the hands of police are still occurring, including the recent murder of Dreasjon Reed by IMPD. We must rebuild, from the ground up, a structure to achieve public safety for all.

To that end, the ACLU, in support of Black- and Brown-led community organizations, will be monitoring the city's reinvisioning of policing and the criminal legal system for changes such as:

- Stopping enforcement of a range of non-serious offenses and eliminate many of the unnecessary interactions between the police and community members;
- Removing police from responses to mental health crises;
- Banning pretextual stops and consent searches that act as common mechanisms for police to engage in racial profiling and circumvent legal standards;
- Removing police officers from schools and investing in counselors, social workers, and health care providers;
- Implementing common-sense, legally-enforceable constraints – such as a civilian-led Use-of-Force review board – so that there are very rare instances in which police officers can use force against community members.

IMPD's budget makes up more than 30% of the city's budget. As our elected city leaders work on the 2021 budget, you must begin to shift resources away from adding officers and militarized



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equipment and toward Black and Brown community-based initiatives that support true safety, health, and well-being.

Year after year, our law enforcement budgets grow. But more policing isn't making our city safer. The lived reality that white people take for granted is what we should provide for our entire community: an end to over-policing, an end to constant surveillance and harassment, an end to enforcement of non-serious offenses, and an end to the targeting of Black and Brown people.

We look forward to a new and just approach to public safety for everyone in Indianapolis.

Sincerely,

Jane Henegar
Executive Director
ACLU of Indiana

CC: Councillor Zach Adamson
Councillor Leroy Robinson
Councillor Keith Potts
Councillor Dan Boots
Councillor Ethan Evans
Councillor Ali Brown
Councillor Crista Carlinor
Councillor John Barth
Councillor Monroe Gray, Jr.
Councillor William Oliver
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