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IMPD Highlights Investment in License Plate Readers and other Crime Fighting Technology

Upgrades are part of \$150 million of American Rescue Plan funding designated toward curbing violent crime

INDIANAPOLIS – Today, Mayor Joe Hogsett, along with Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) Chief Randal Taylor, Criminal Justice Committee Chairman Leroy Robinson and FOP President Rick Snyder highlighted technology upgrades that will be implemented throughout the city to combat violent crime.

This investment through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding will allocate \$9 million over the next three years and will include additional license plate readers, public safety cameras in high-crime areas and along major thoroughfares and a new gunfire detection pilot to help police respond to gun crimes more efficiently and effectively.

“By investing in modern policing technology, we’re equipping IMPD with critical tools to combat the unacceptable levels of violence in Indianapolis neighborhoods,” said Mayor Hogsett. “These technologies represent a key piece of our larger antiviolence efforts, which include historic levels of funding for law enforcement, grassroots violence prevention, and root causes of crime. My thanks to the City-County Council for their unanimous support of the American Rescue Plan Act funding making these investments possible, and IMPD for their tireless efforts to advance public safety in our city,” Hogsett added.

“This investment will allow the department to modernize our police force and our crime fighting techniques at a scale we never have before. This technology will supplement our beat officers’ efforts and serve as another tool to track down criminals, reassure citizens and make the streets of Indianapolis safer,” said IMPD Chief Randal Taylor.

Currently, IMPD has about two dozen stationary License Plate Readers (LPR’s) that capture photos through the Flock Public Safety Program. Stationary LPR’s are solar-powered and were located based on crime and traffic incidents. The department is currently planning an even larger deployment, in partnership with an outside consultant to evaluate current technology and determine a data-driven deployment strategy.

IMPD utilizes eight mobile LPR’s that are deployed throughout the city on IMPD-marked police cars. Through ARPA funding, IMPD will look to strategically add more stationary LPR’s and evaluate speed detection tools designed to reduce severe crashes caused by reckless driving.

“We already have seen that LPR’s can bring justice to victims and their families. Our hope is by expanding the programs we will prevent future incidents by interrupting criminal activity. Victims

within our community expect us to solve cases. These technological enhancements help us meet that expectation,” said IMPD Major Matt Thomas.

Throughout Indianapolis, IMPD has deployed about 200 public safety camera views including B-Link, partnerships, which provides accountability within public spaces for both residents’ and officers’ actions. These cameras were initially installed for the Super bowl XLVI and have helped investigators solve cases. Through ARPA funding, IMPD will look to add even more community cameras. IMPD will coordinate with neighborhood groups and specific districts before public safety cameras are deployed in neighborhood areas.

"Violence in our city is the product of many things, and the Council is committed to addressing those myriad, long-standing root causes while also ensuring our partners in law enforcement have the tools and support they need to serve and protect our city today. I believe there is broad, bipartisan support for integrating technologies that provide better intelligence to our men and women in blue,” said Chairman Robinson.