



**Media Advisory:**

September 26, 2022

**Contacts:**

Michael Leffler; [michael.leffler@indy.gov](mailto:michael.leffler@indy.gov)

Marisa Watson-Juarez; [marisa.watson-juarez@indy.gov](mailto:marisa.watson-juarez@indy.gov)

## **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Justice Academy to be hosted in October by the Marion County Prosecutor's Office**

INDIANAPOLIS Ind. — Marion County Prosecutor Ryan Mears announced today that his office will host the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Community Justice Academy virtually in October. Held weekly, the Community Justice Academy will feature two virtual (via Zoom) sessions and two in-person sessions.

"The Community Justice Academy has been a staple of our community outreach efforts for the past 11 years. After two years, we are proud to announce that we will have two in-person sessions for academy participants," said Prosecutor Mears. "We strive to bring high-level, engaging and educational presentations to Marion County residents through this series."

**What:** 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Marion County Prosecutor's Office Community Justice Academy

**When:** All sessions will be held 6 - 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022: The Importance of Victim Advocacy (Virtual session held via Zoom)**

*Join us as a deputy prosecutor and victim advocates provide an inside-look into the important role victim advocates serve alongside prosecutors to protect victims' rights and guide victims and their families through the most challenging time of their lives.*

**Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2022: Defining Consent (Virtual Session held via Zoom)**

*Did you know that up until July 1, 2022, Indiana did not have a legal definition of consent? This presentation will explore what led to that change and what impact it will have on criminal cases involving sexual assault going forward.*

**Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2022: The Root Causes of Violence (In-person)**

*In this session you will hear from grassroots organizations that are dedicated to serving at-risk young people. These organizations will discuss the work they do and what they believe are the root causes that contribute to violence in our community.*

**Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2022: Crime Gun Intelligence (In-person)**

*Law enforcement has invested significant resources into crime gun intelligence, and it shows in investigations. Join Prosecutor Mears and law enforcement, and forensic experts as they examine what crime gun intelligence is and why it is an important tool in the fight against violent crime.*

In-person sessions (Oct. 19 and Oct. 26) will be held at the Library Services Center:  
2450 N Meridian St, Indianapolis, IN 4620

The Community Justice Academy is free to attend, and all are welcome. See here for more information about each session and to register for the event: <https://bit.ly/3UE1xfM>

-30-

**NOTE:** Prosecutor Mears will be available before each presentation to speak with the media. Please contact Communications Director Michael Leffler to schedule an interview.

*The Community Justice Academy was established in 2011 as part of a comprehensive effort by the Prosecutor's Office to educate and engage residents about crime prevention strategies and the criminal justice system. Each year, guest speakers and experts from the Marion County Prosecutor's Office present information to attendees on a variety of current topics.*