

INDY NORTHSIDE NEWS

AUGUST 2024

TOP NEWS

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- IMPD Substation Open House
- Mayor's Community Service Award Nominations
- Operation Back to School
- INRC Info Session and Awards
- Community Powered Infrastructure
- Community Celebrates Healthier School Lunches
- OWMBD Business Certification Workshop

RESOURCES

- Report potholes, abandoned vehicles, stray animals, & more through the Mayor's Action Center:
 - 317.327.4622
 - [Request Indy Online here](#)
 - Request Indy App
- My contact info
 - mina.moussa@indy.gov
- Community Office Hours
 - 2nd & 4th Wednesdays from 10-12
 - [Click here for locations](#)

MEET YOUR MNA

Hello! My name is Mina Moussa, and I am the MNA for Area 1. Before joining the city, I was with Project Azul, an Indianapolis non-profit focused on upskilling individuals in the logistics and manufacturing industries. I majored in Anthropology at Ball State (chirp chirp!). When I'm not working, I like to hang out with friends, try out new restaurants, and watch movies.



SOCIALS

If you know anyone who may find this newsletter helpful, please encourage them to add their email to the distribution list at: [Click this link](#)

To see weekly updates, [follow me on Nextdoor here.](#)



2025 CITY BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Budget Highlights

The 2025 Budget keeps Indianapolis-Marion County on a path of strong fiscal stability while investing in our workforce, public safety, violence reduction, infrastructure, traffic safety, and quality of life initiatives.

Investing in our People

Public-sector contracts are being negotiated:

- Firefighters
- Police Officers
- Sheriff's Deputies
- AFSCME Members
- Public Defenders

Public Safety

- Continued investment in technology for the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department for license plate readers, public safety cameras, dash cameras, and body-worn cameras
- Investment in a strategic Wellness Center
- Investment in IMPD's professional and technical positions, shifting 7 officers back to police work
- 6-year vehicle replacement for IMPD
- 10-year apparatus replacement program for IFD
- New IFD arson investigation unit
- Funding for Forensics Services Agency to outsource DNA cases allowing them to reduce processing time
- Funding to support recruitment and retention programs in the Marion County Sheriff's Office
- Additional investment in technology to improve communication and jail maintenance in the Adult Detention Center

Quality of Life

- Creation of a safety ambassador position for Parks to begin developing a program dedicated to enhanced public safety in parks
- Funding a master leasing program for 34 additional units for unsheltered individuals and families as a part of the 200 units of permanent supportive housing to be developed as identified by the Mayor's Office housing first initiative
- Proposal 256 - Amends the code to create the independent Animal Care Services Agency
- Increased local funding for animal care supplies to reduce reliance on donors and investment in professional kennel cleaning to free up staff to focus on animal care
- Technological investment to improve the Mayor's Action Center request portal for increased transparency between citizens reporting concerns and the City's progress toward alleviating them

Violence Prevention

- Funding the Clinician Led Community Response team in the east and downtown IMPD districts
- Full funding of the Gun Violence Reduction Strategy ("Peacemakers") program
- Continued funding for the Violence Reduction Grants ("Elevation Grants")

2025 CITY BUDGET CONTINUED

- Staff to support formerly incarcerated individuals re-entering the community and prevent recidivism
- Funding for the Tenant Legal Assistance Project
- Funding the Assessment and Intervention Center to provide mental health, addiction, and wrap-around services

Traffic Safety

- More than 30% of DPW funding across the 5-year capital plan set to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety
- Funding to purchase a new mobile traffic safety command center for IMPD
- Funding to purchase new in-car printers and scanners to reduce a current barrier to traffic enforcement
- Funding positions in the Department of Public Works dedicated to the implementation of the Vision Zero plan with the goal of eliminating all serious injuries and deaths from traffic crashes

Infrastructure Investments

- \$199.6 million for roads, bridges, and greenway improvements across Indianapolis neighborhoods in 2025
- \$68.4 million for storm water systems improvements across Indianapolis neighborhoods in 2025
- Additional personnel dedicated to trail maintenance as a result of the historic \$50 million investment through the Circle City Forward initiative and Lilly Foundation grant
- Project manager for Green Infrastructure and an additional Forestry Analyst
- \$16.3 million towards our urban tree canopy and land stewardship

IMPD SUBSTATION OPEN HOUSE

You are invited to an open house at the IMPD North Shadeland Substation (75th and Shadeland Ave) between 7 and 9:30 PM, on **Wednesday, September 4**. This will be an occasion for community members and donors to see the substation, learn more about it and meet with IMPD North District leadership and officers. (The substation is not typically open to the public.)

7 PM: Commander Thomas, Captain Foley, and Captain Arvin will be present to meet with community members.

Around 9 PM: Late Shift supervisors will begin to arrive.

9:00-9:30 PM: The Open House will close with North District officer's roll call for the shift change. This is a great opportunity to meet with third shift officers (who we might rarely see!) and express our appreciation for their service. BRAG will be providing a to-go meal for the third shift officers.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR THE MAYOR'S COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

It's time to celebrate the unsung heroes who make our city a better place! The nomination period for the 2024 Mayor's Community Service Awards is now open until **Friday, August 16th**.

This annual tradition, now in its 31st year, honors Indianapolis residents who dedicate their time and talents to improving our community.

The awards ceremony will take place on **Wednesday, September 25th** at the Indianapolis Arts Garden.

Following tradition, each recipient's name will be engraved on individual bricks and added to the Mayor's Volunteer Plaza located in the 11th Street Admiral Spruance Basin on the Indianapolis Canal Walk. Learn more about this special occasion here:

<https://www.indy.gov/activity/MCSA>

How to nominate: Fill out the simple nomination form here: [[Nomination Form](#)]. Nominations will close on Friday, August 16th.

Don't miss this opportunity to recognize the extraordinary people who make Indianapolis a great place to live!

OPERATION BACK TO SCHOOL

Operation Back to School is back!

This program provides financial assistance to Indiana veteran families experiencing financial difficulty, offering \$500 per qualified dependent for back-to-school supplies and other school-related expenses.

Families can begin applying on **July 15**. The application period closes on **August 30**.

Apply for Children k-12 (up to age 18) and college students (up to age 23)

[Apply Now here!](#)

INRC INFO SESSIONS AND AWARDS

INDY HUNGER NETWORK

AUG
20
2024

VIRTUAL INFO SESSION WITH Q&A
TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2024 6-7:30PM

- DISCUSSION ON ANTI-HUNGER PROGRAMS & RESOURCES IN INDY
- LEARN ABOUT IHN'S APP FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE
- SIGN UP FOR FREE COOKING & NUTRITION COURSES

REGISTER NOW



The Collaborative Spirit Award is an annual award that celebrates the efforts of neighborhood associations and neighborhood-based organizations working together to better the quality of life in Indianapolis communities. Some examples of these initiatives might include collaboration on projects, community events, and neighborhood planning.

[LEARN MORE AND APPLY HERE](#)

COMMUNITY POWERED INFRASTRUCTURE

Indianapolis is taking new applications for community-led traffic calming projects.

The city announced six new projects yesterday, totaling \$2.5 million in investment, and put out a call for more neighborhoods to apply to partner on future projects, which can include everything from new sidewalks to street murals to tactical urbanism initiatives.

Zoom in: This year's projects include sidewalk rehabilitation in the Greenbriar neighborhood, new sidewalks and a pedestrian crossing at CFI School 70, bus stop improvements, sidewalk improvements and road repair at the International District Community Center, road improvements in Meridian Hills and crosswalk enhancements around the IU Indianapolis campus.

The application for the next round is open through **August 30**.

How it works: Neighborhoods need a community-based organization to sponsor the project.

- Successful applications for funding will receive a 50-50 match from the city, capped at \$10,000 for tactical urbanism and art in the right of way projects and \$500,000 for neighborhood infrastructure.
- Neighborhoods can also now apply to borrow barriers, bollards, speed humps and other materials for tactical urbanism projects from the city's new "lending library."

What's next: City officials are preparing next year's budget requests, which will include several pedestrian safety capital investments.

- DPW director Brandon Herget said improvements to 10th Street, informed by the successful Community Heights tactical urbanism experiment last summer, will be in his department's request.
- DPW is also looking to secure funding for a Monon Trail bridge over busy 86th Street.

[Learn more and apply here](#)

COMMUNITY LEADERS CELEBRATE HEALTHIER SCHOOL CAFETERIAS

Wednesday, August 14th - City officials, community partners, and educational leaders today showcased the transformative efforts in improving school lunch programs across Indianapolis at Purdue Polytechnic High School - Englewood. Photos from the event are included below. Schools are participating in Ahimsa's Conscious Cafeteria Project, a program focused on transitioning from single-use plastic trays and utensils to reusable steel and taking a comprehensive approach to promoting sustainability and healthier practices in school cafeterias.

"The Conscious Cafeteria Project is a critical step in ensuring our students have access to nutritious meals and safe materials that not only support their health but also contribute to a more sustainable environment," said Deputy Mayor Judith Thomas. "The collaboration between our schools, local organizations, and businesses exemplifies the power of community in driving positive change."

This transition is expected to significantly reduce carbon emissions and waste at the following five mayor-sponsored charter schools:

- Purdue Polytechnic High School - Englewood
- Purdue Polytechnic High School - Broad Ripple
- IN Math & Science Academy West
- Victory College Prep
- Bethel Park Elementary

This effort also aligns with the American Academy of Pediatrics' formal policy recommendations to avoid plastic due to its negative health effects on a child's growing brain and body. This motivated local Riley pediatrician, Dr. Manasa Mantravadi, to found Ahimsa - a line of stainless steel foodware for school cafeterias.

Reusable cafeteria foodware is also an opportunity for environmental equity; at one pilot school in Indianapolis, 70% of students eat breakfast and lunch at school and 100% are on free or reduced lunch. As lower-income families are more likely to live in over-polluted, under-resourced neighborhoods, the Conscious Cafeterias Project is providing vulnerable populations with critical access to healthier, cleaner options.

BUSINESS CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP



BUSINESS CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP

**EMPOWER,
CERTIFY, SUCCEED**

Diverse Businesses Path to
City and State Certification



**The City of
Indianapolis,**
Office of Minority
& Women Business
Development



**Indiana
Department of
Administration,**
Division of
Supplier Diversity

**Thursday,
September 12,
2024**

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

**IndyPL -
Glendale Branch**
3660 E 62nd St,
Indianapolis,
IN 46220

**Register By
Clicking Here**
<https://forms.office.com/g/P311mbPw3D>