



## ST. JOSEPH

HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD

Thank you to everyone who joined last week's neighborhood meeting! Here's what is covered in this month's newsletter:

- Recap of Neighborhood Meeting on Feb 2
- Community Links/Updates
- General Reminders/Upcoming Dates

### Neighborhood Meeting Recap

#### Updates from City Councilman Zach Adams

- Despite a decrease in property crime (unlike other cities), Indianapolis has unfortunately seen an increase in homicides
- Budgets are set for 2021 but may see budget cuts for 2022
- Indianapolis continues to have available hospital beds so there is preparedness for any increase in COVID cases
- Councilman Adams confirmed he will follow-up on the status of getting a traffic study for the 200 block of E St. Joseph
- In response to a question regarding empty newspaper dispensers becoming trash collectors, Councilman Adams followed up that any unused ones are in the process of being removed from Mile Square. If neighbors spot any others filled with trash, they should contact the councilman with details of the exact location
- In response to questions about the upcoming conversion of Ft Wayne (between Alabama and Delaware) to two-way, it was discovered that area is part of Councilman Vop Osili's district, so Councilman Adams will inquire for updates about that project and it's impact on the median which the neighborhood was intending to adopt.
- Additional information was provided about how the city tackles neighborhood infrastructure improvements. It was communicated that each year project budgets are divided amongst different areas of Indy so that each area gets some improvements each year. There is a "Master Needs" list kept by the city which contains all needs. It was suggested that any needs we have be added to that list. He said curb work and projects that impact stormwater drainage/erosion are often prioritized. Further, alley improvements can not be made from budgets allocated for road work.
- There was an inquiry about the removal of the IndyGo bus shelter on Ft Wayne. Those shelters are managed by IndyGo, not the city.

#### DPW application

An update was given confirming that the neighborhood had submitted an application for supporting funds from DPW to repair roughly 260ft of sidewalks in the neighborhood. Updates should be received in mid-March.

#### Window Clings for Members

Window clings featuring the St. Joseph logo will be given to all new members who join in 2021. The clings should be available in March.

#### Beautification Committee

- Fall clean-up was so successful that there will be another in November

- The neighborhood had a net loss of 2 block captains, down to 5. The more block captains we have in the neighborhood, the more funding and native plants the neighborhood can get from Keep Indy Beautiful. If you're interested in more information about the Adopt-a-Block program, [learn more here](#). Please contact [stjoeboard@gmail.com](mailto:stjoeboard@gmail.com) if you're interested or if you sign up with KIB.
- If the neighborhood adopts the triangle median at Alabama and Ft. Wayne, the hope is to use native plants obtained by the block captains to landscape the median.
- New Jersey tree plantings are still planned to happen in 2021.

#### **IMPD Officer Kim Evans Updates**

- 30 day report was given for police responses in the neighborhood.
- In terms of Indianapolis crime statistics, crime in downtown accounts for only 3%
- As a community, still struggling to get the workforce back Downtown. Only 1/3 has returned.
- An app is being introduced next month called "Relay". It's been piloted in northern districts with a positive response and will soon be introduced city-wide. It provides the ability to interact directly with officers. When 911 doesn't feel appropriate, you can share a photo/report of the issue to the appropriate department and receive direct updates. Details forthcoming on how to sign-up and the roll-out plan.
- It was noted that there has been lots of trash and debris in the area of City Market and Symphony on Circle. A "No camping order" was issued by the Office of Public Health & Safety (OPHS), following engagements by officers and medical professionals to access those who were staying in the area to determine who needs help, who is in a state of mind to acknowledge help, and who are defiant and want to be left alone. Some local hotels stepped up and provided options to get people off the street and provide meals.
- [Prop 291](#) which proposed a collaboration with outreach partners for people living outdoors to have shelter didn't get passed. Have to enforce. [Proposal 76](#) provides for a designated area for homeless while being provided more service outreach. It also gives provisions for better control of charitable giving. Sometimes homeless individuals are given more "stuff" than they can carry with them.
- If you have questions about IMPD or crime inquiries, contact Officer Kim Evans [kimberly.evans@indy.gov](mailto:kimberly.evans@indy.gov)

#### **Updates from Fabio Yataco - Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate - Area 10**

- Fabio's role serves as a bridge to city services and organizations
- City council updates: Last month approval was given to put \$2.9M from the general fund to COVID relief efforts/business support/PPE; Approved bill to increase food access via a new division focused on creating food policies and programs and reducing food insecurities
- Provided several links to additional information (shared below)

#### **Hospitality Committee**

- Mark Sprout announced the start of the Hospitality Committee, which will focus on welcoming new neighbors and fostering a sense of community. He's seeking 2-3 additional members for committee (two neighbors volunteered during the meeting).
- Committee agenda: Encouraging monthly porch parties, offer wine/beer tasting or show & tell parties, welcoming new neighbors, planning a special holiday party, finding other ways to engage neighbors with picnics/business outreach (including National Night Out).

## **Community Links/Updates**

Thanks to Fabio Yataco, our neighborhood advocate in the Mayor's office for sharing these helpful links and updates on community initiatives.

#### **DPW Snow Force Tool**

During active winter weather, visit this site to see the real-time status of treated/cleared roads throughout the city.

[Visit the site](#)

#### **Vaccine Information**

Find details about the vaccine distribution in Indiana and register to receive your vaccine when you are eligible. The site is constantly updated with the latest information.

[Learn about COVID-19 vaccine](#)

#### **North Split Construction Schedule**

Here's an overview of schedule for the construction project but we also recommend signing up for INDOT's newsletter to receive timely updates about road closures in the area.

[See the schedule](#)

[Get INDOT updates](#)

#### **Business Ownership 101 webinar**

Indy Chamber is hosting a webinar on February 25, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM. The Business Ownership 101 workshop conducted, in partnership with SOURCE Entrepreneurship Center, outlines four critical stages of business development. The workshop will also give you time to ask questions and learn from others who are looking to launch a business.

[Register here](#)

#### **OPHS Announces Food|Comida|Rawl 317**

Reminder of the new data collection effort that will form the basis for future food policy and programming. We need your input to help build a more inclusive, sustainable food system.

[Share your experience](#)

#### **Excluded Workers' Assistance Fund**

Heart of the House Foundation's Excluded Workers' Assistance Fund helps workers who are furloughed or laid off from their full-time job because of the Coronavirus. Workers who fill out the Excluded Workers' Assistance Fund Application may qualify for financial relief.

[Apply here](#)

## **General Reminders/Upcoming Dates**

#### **Board Meetings Schedule**

As a reminder, the St. Joseph Board will meet monthly on first Tuesdays via Zoom. Next meeting is scheduled for March 2. For any issues or concerns you'd like discussed, please email the board prior to the meeting. Email: [stjoeboard@gmail.com](mailto:stjoeboard@gmail.com)

#### **Association Membership**

You'll be getting membership renewal reminders with this month's delivery of Urban Times. If you have opted into the auto-renewal option in PayPal, you don't need to take any action. You can join at [stjoeneighborhood.org](http://stjoeneighborhood.org).

## **Give Us Your Feedback**

Have suggestions on news/info you'd like to see from the neighborhood? Reply to this email and send your suggestions!

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