

REMARKS FOR JOSEPH H. HOGSETT
Criminal Justice Complex Location Announcement
January 31, 2017

Good morning, and thank you for being here.

Before we begin, I do want to take a moment to thank the many people and organizations who – through their work and service – made today possible.

- To Jeffrey Harrison and Citizens Energy Group, our partners in the remediation and development of this site . . .
- To Matt Gutwein and Health and Hospital Corporation, our partners in tackling mental illness and substance abuse in our City . . .
- To the neighborhood and community leadership and organizations, our partners in the revitalization of the near Southeast side . . .
- To Sheriff Layton, Chief Roach, President Lewis, our Circuit and Superior Court Judges, the Indianapolis Bar Association, Chairman Robinson, City-County Councillors and the rest of our partners in this project . . . and in

reforming an out-of-date and exhausted criminal justice system . . .

- To Senator Freeman and Representative Forestal, who represent this area so well . . .

To ALL of you – and the many others too numerous to name – I thank you.

On December 12th, I stood before you to outline the specific plan this Administration would pursue in reforming the entire Marion County criminal justice system. Today, we reach a key milestone in the implementation of that plan . . . the literal place where our systemic reforms will take root.

Last month, I promised we would announce a location for our criminal justice project by today. Over the past seven months, we considered many potential locations that met the relevant criteria: something centrally located, something large enough to encompass the scope of our reforms, and something the community supports. The former Citizens Coke Plant meets each of those criteria. But as much as today is about where we stand, it is far more about where we are going.

The pioneering complex that we build here will reflect how we value the well-being of every single citizen. Here, we will insure two things: first, that justice is served, and second, that those in need of help receive it.

Yet, what we build here will change more than lives, it will change the very life and history of this part of town.

I've said many times that we must leverage the success of our thriving downtown back into our neighborhoods. The facilities that will be constructed here will do just that. As they restore lives, they will revitalize struggling neighborhoods.

For nearly a century in the Twin Aire neighborhood, the former Citizens Energy Coke Plant helped fuel the steel industry. But since operations ceased in 2007, this part of town has been hit particularly hard. That is why we mark today's announcement as a joyous occasion. The community members and leaders who tirelessly advocated for this location have every right to be gratified at the news of this selection and should be thanked for their years of thankless work.

I understand that this site bears with it its share of challenges. But in rising to those challenges, I am convinced that our whole

city will be the better for it. As I said in launching us on a course that would have us reform our whole criminal justice system, to paraphrase President Kennedy, “we choose to [do this] and do the other things – not because they are easy, but because they are hard.”

No matter the challenge – be it poverty, be it crime, or be it neighborhood decline: let us face and overcome them all as one, so that we may prosper as one.

I thank you.