



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 28, 2019

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Gary Mayor Freeman-Wilson and Police Chief Allen Share Plan to Address Spike in Homicides

(Gary, IND) – Today, Gary Police Chief Richard Allen, Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson and city leaders expressed their grave concern regarding the number of homicides that have occurred in Gary since the start of 2019. To date, 12 people have been killed within the city limits. In response to this alarming increase in the number of homicides, Mayor Freeman-Wilson and Chief Allen outlined an action plan that will be implemented immediately:

1. The Gary Police Department will address the supply of drugs through aggressive enforcement efforts while paying special attention to locations where drug activity is prevalent. These places will continue to be identified through undercover investigations, anonymous tips and data analytics.
2. The issue of drug addiction will be addressed. City officials are well aware that Gary has not been exempt from the opioid epidemic that has plagued other communities. It is imperative that we work with the Second Chance Program, Edgewater Systems for Balanced Living and other local providers to insure that those who are addicted to alcohol and other drugs will have access to treatment and counseling.
3. The Gary Police Department will partner with other law enforcement agencies and task forces. The High Intensity Drug Traffic Area team, Gang Response Investigative Team, Lake County Drug Task Force and other entities have joined forces with the Gary Police Department to increase patrols in targeted high crime areas.
4. The Gary Police Department will engage Block Clubs by encouraging residents to proactively use the anonymous tip line to report drug activity in residential areas. Any member of the public with information should contact the Crime Tip Line at 866-274-6347, the Gary Police Department at 219-881-1210 or Lake County Metro Homicide at 219-755-3855.
5. The Gary Police Department will work to increase the number of police officers to 180 through an “Emergency Hiring” process. An additional goal of reaching 190 officers has been set as the Gary Police Department seeks additional funding through other resources to be determined.

Chief Richard Allen and Mayor Freeman-Wilson both acknowledge the continued hard work of Gary police officers. Chief Allen urges members of the public who may have information to place themselves in the shoes of victims’ loved ones.

“If something happened to you, I know you would want someone with information to contact the police and assist with holding the perpetrator accountable,” said Allen.

Mayor Freeman-Wilson added, “We want residents to know that we take your safety seriously and have a concrete plan to get the results you want and deserve.”

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