



# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY **NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Department of Public Safety Announces Newly Appointed Deputy Director and Advisory Board**

*Advisory Board and New Position to focus on training and strategic initiatives*

INDIANAPOLIS – The Department of Public Safety announces today the appointment of Rick Hite as Deputy Director for Training and Strategic Initiatives. Rick is a native of Gary and a 32-year law enforcement veteran with the Baltimore City Police Department. He has served in roles such as Deputy Chief of Patrol, Major, and Lieutenant. He served as the president of the Vanguard Society for four years and successfully implemented several nationally recognized programs that focused on police leadership, community-oriented problem solving, the reduction of youth violence and gang activity, and prisoner re-entry. In this newly created role, Hite will lead a review of IMPD recruit, in-service and leadership training curriculum as well as the recruiting, hiring and promotional programs with top departments across the nation.

The Department of Public Safety also announces a newly created Public Safety Advisory Board to focus on public safety issues in the community. This board will advise the Department of Public Safety and give recommendations on programs and initiatives. This group was selected based on their prominence in the community and their diverse cultural and professional backgrounds.

“The appointment of Mr. Hite and the creation of the Department of Public Safety Advisory Board will assist us in our efforts to strengthen the IMPD training curriculum and community-police relations,” said Mayor Greg Ballard. “Mr. Hite’s leadership skills and experience and the Advisory Board’s cultural and professional diversity will be valuable contributions to the City of Indianapolis.”

“Mr. Hite is a nationally recognized police leader who led the implementation of several innovative community-involved strategies that during his career had a profound effect on the

City of Baltimore and its Police Department,” said Public Safety Director Frank Straub. “We are fortunate to have someone with Mr. Hite’s experience and background join the Department of Public Safety and lead this important review and reengineering of the IMPD’s training programs,” Straub added.

Members of the DPS advisory board are:

Alfredo Lopez, Alivio Clinic

Abdul Hakim-Shabazz, Attorney at Law

Amos Brown, Radio One

Councilor Ben Hunter, City-County Council At-Large

Councilor Angel M Rivera, City-County Council At-Large

Melissa Proffitt Reese, Partner, Ice Miller LLP

Pastor James W. Jackson, Lead Pastor of the Fervent Prayer Church

Raju Chintala, President, Asian Services of Indiana and Vice Chairman, India Association of Indianapolis

The Advisory Board will meet regularly and present their findings to members of the DPS Executive Staff. The first meeting, to be held in late September, will focus on improvements to the training academy and recruitment for the next IMPD recruit class.

For more information, please visit [www.indy.gov/dps](http://www.indy.gov/dps) or visit the [DPS Facebook page](#).

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