City of
Indianapolis
Gregory A. Ballard, Mayor

March 3, 2009

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lugar,

On behalf of the City of Indianapolis, I would like to personally thank you for your assistance with the FY '09 appropriations process. Your support of Indianapolis has been generous, and members of your staff have been extremely helpful during my first year in office. Additionally, I have personally enjoyed our opportunities to spend time together. Your efforts are very much appreciated, and I look forward to working with you on a number of issues, including the FY'10 appropriations process.

In preparation for the FY'10 appropriations process, we have identified several projects which directly affect and benefit the welfare, safety, health and economy of the City and its neighborhoods. Accordingly, please accept this letter as a formal request to be considered for federal funding in FY'10. This letter is intended to provide you with a concise description of the important projects for which we are seeking assistance.

Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS)—The AFIS is the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department's (IMPD) tool for collecting, maintaining and processing fingerprints within Marion County. Every arrestee in Marion County is fingerprinted and identified through the use of the AFIS. The current system maintains the records of nearly 500,000 fingerprints and nearly 150,000 palm prints. Each year, funds are set aside to maintain this system through its vendor. However, IMPD's system requires an update because it is expected the vendor will no longer support the current system at the end of 2009. ***The City respectfully requests $1.2 million in FY'10 appropriations to fund the critical update required for this vital law enforcement tool.***

Broadband/Wireless Upgrade to IMPD Fleet—In order to appropriately support IMPD's community (or problem-solving) policing efforts, a need exists to upgrade the officers' tools. For example, valuable patrol and problem-solving time is lost traveling to and from roll call meetings to file reports. In addition to this time out of service, officers spend fifteen to twenty minutes at each roll call listening to reports of crimes, requests for extra patrol, etc., which are nowhere close to their patrol beats and not applicable to them or the jobs each

Office of the Mayor
2501 City County Building
200 E. Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
(317) 327-3601
(fax) 327-3980
(TDD) 327-5186
www.indy.GOV

officer is required to do. In order to create concrete results, crime trend analysis, together with geographically tailored strategic plans for preventing and/or combating these crimes — information which is the end product of IMPD's regular executive staff "Compstat" accountability sessions — must be pushed out to the men and women whose job it is to carry out focused strategies to actually reduce crime and disorder. Current expected federal appropriations will allow approximately one half of the eligible IMPD fleet to be outfitted with wireless capabilities to accomplish this task. ***The City respectfully requests $600,000 in FY'10 appropriations to complete the addition of wireless capabilities in patrol cars, allowing officers to receive "Compstat" data and to therefore spend a greater amount of time in their patrol areas.***

Downtown Transportation Improvements—Monument Circle, the geographic center of Indianapolis and home to the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial, is bisected by Market Street. Transportation enhancement funds are needed to make improvements on Market Street from Capitol Avenue to Alabama Street. This vital, commercial road radiating out from Monument Circle requires design and construction improvements and upgrades in order to rehabilitate the area. Improvements and upgrades would include new and repaired curbs and gutters, brick sidewalks and paving, drainage, ADA ramps, electrical improvements, and a complete overhaul of the streetscape. ***Accordingly, the City respectfully requests $2 million in FY'10 appropriations for the improvements and upgrades to this important area.***

Morris Street bridge over White River—Morris Street, on the near south side of downtown, is an important economic artery in the City and serves a major Indianapolis employer. The Morris Street bridge, which spans White River, needs rehabilitation and is set to be funded with federal surface transportation program funds. However, cost estimates have risen and additional funds are required to close the financial gap and complete this project. ***Accordingly, the City respectfully requests $1 million in FY'10 appropriations to complete the rehabilitation of this vital bridge.***

3000 East Washington Street area—The area, just east of downtown Indianapolis on US 40 (also known as the National Highway), is home to some longtime, committed businesses. Unfortunately, it is also home to a number of sites with environmental challenges that impede future development in the area. The City seeks funding to acquire challenged sites, conduct Brownfield remediation and demolish structures in advance of new development opportunities. ***Accordingly, the City respectfully requests $5 million in FY'10 appropriations to conduct environmental and economic development work on this significant commercial area.***

ADA Playground Upgrades—Today, there are 116 playgrounds for Indianapolis youth spread through the more than 200 properties owned by Indy Parks. However, some of these playgrounds are not compliant with the American with Disabilities Act. Understanding that Indy Parks should strive to have each playground become ADA accessible, and therefore an amenity to all in our community, the City seeks to undertake an effort to bring all sites up to standard. ***Accordingly, the City respectfully requests $1 million in FY'10 appropriations to bring all playgrounds up to minimum ADA requirements.***

Winona Hospital—The site of a former hospital, this abandoned and tax delinquent site in the heart of Indianapolis is a challenged but prime redevelopment opportunity for the community. The City is likely to acquire ownership rights to the facility in early summer following a lengthy bankruptcy proceeding. Interested parties have already inquired about the site, but the challenge of real and potential environmental contamination, out-dated and inefficient structures, and ongoing security concerns pose roadblocks to successful redevelopment. ***Accordingly, the City respectfully requests $3 million in FY'10 appropriations to conduct Brownfield remediation and demolition in preparation for development.***

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park upgrade—On April 4, 1964, Presidential-candidate Robert F. Kennedy addressed a throng of supporters and neighborhood residents in Indianapolis and broke the news that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had been assassinated. That speech not only helped preserve the peace in Indianapolis while other cities experienced violence, but it also began to give voice to sadness so many Americans felt. That seminal moment in our nation's history is also part of our community's history, and the location of Kennedy's speech has rightly been preserved with a memorial and green space by Indy Parks. With the addition of an interactive kiosk in a shelter structure, informational panels, walkways through the park connecting new features with existing ones, creating greater connectively to the park by linking Park Ave. with Broadway St., and improving park features such as lighting and benches, Indianapolis can continue sharing the power of that evening with generations to come. ***Accordingly, the City respectfully requests $3 million in FY'10 appropriations to further develop this memorial to more fully ensconce it as the national treasure it is.***

United Neighborhood Centers of Indianapolis—The United Neighborhood Centers of Indianapolis is a collaboration of eleven community centers located in high need neighborhoods throughout the City. The collaborative, with a special focus on ex-offenders and their families, provides assistance in the following areas: employment and training, GED programming, early childhood development, child care, after school programming, case management, referrals, housing, legal, mental health, emergency assistance with basic

needs, transportation, and services for senior citizens. ***Accordingly, the City respectfully requests $2 million in FY'10 appropriations to assist the collaborative in delivering these services.***

Indianapolis North Flood Control Damage Reduction Project—A portion of northern Indianapolis near the White River is a flood prone area. In 1991, a flood event forced the evacuation of more than 500 homes, caused wide-spread property damage, and interrupted many services to the area. In response, studies conducted regarding the area showed that the levees would be breached in another major flood event. The corresponding studies led to the Central Indianapolis Waterfront Concept Plan (1994) and a cooperation between the City of Indianapolis and the Army Corps of Engineers to repair and add levees/floodwalls, replace and update pumps, and include mitigation around the area. This project commenced in 2001, and when complete, will remove 2,400 homes from the 100-year floodplain. Full appropriation will allow for final design work and all remaining construction of this important flood control project. ***The City respectfully requests $6 million in FY'10 appropriations for completion of this project.***

National Cycling Center—Major Taylor Velodrome, a premier cycling facility built for the 1982 National Sports Festival, remains an important asset for Indianapolis. However, the facility, an important landmark to the African-American community, is in need of renovations including a new roof, windows, energy efficient heating and cooling systems, and replacement of a dilapidated entry way. ***Accordingly, the City respectfully requests $750,000 in FY'10 appropriations to rehabilitate this key Indy Parks facility.***

16th Street and Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd—A City-owned Brownfield site at this prominent location in Indianapolis has tested positive for environmental contamination. Further testing, follow-up remediation, and site preparation is required to make the site development-ready. ***Accordingly, the City respectfully requests $1 million in FY'10 appropriations to rehabilitate this important site.***

STEP Sanitary Sewer Project—As one reminder of our community's more rural past, many homes throughout Indianapolis are served by septic systems instead of being connected into the City's sanitary sewer system. Sanitary sewers provide a better level of service for the customers and a higher degree of environmental stewardship for our City. Indianapolis has undertaken the effort to move its citizens currently on septic systems to sanitary sewers. Many projects are underway, and with each completion, additional homes are removed from septic systems. The City would use appropriated funds to complete the second (and final) phase of two STEP projects, one at 64th and Whitley and another and 59th and Grandview. ***Accordingly, the City respectfully requests $5,300,000 in appropriations to***

complete two STEP sanitary sewer projects as part of the City's Septic Tank Elimination Program.

Rev. Mozel Sanders Park—This neighborhood park includes a 13-acre area (formerly a landfill) adjacent to an elementary school. Redeveloping that portion of the park will allow for the creation of sports fields, tennis courts, walking trails, shelters and parking. ***Accordingly, the City respectfully requests $2 million in FY'10 appropriations to convert a former landfill site into active, productive parkland.***

Central Green (State)—This 160-acre former state hospital is currently owned by the City and has posed a redevelopment challenge for Indianapolis for a number of years. While it is a prime location for economic development, the site remains challenged in many ways including infrastructure, drainage, and environmental issues. There is current interest in using a portion of the site for residential use and another portion for a charter school. However, additional opportunities remain on this site. ***Accordingly, the City respectfully requests $5 million in FY'10 appropriations to provide infrastructure improvement and Brownfield remediation for the economic development of this urban site.***

Douglas Park Area Brownfield—Near Douglas Park, on the near north side of Indianapolis, is a 17-acre Brownfield site currently owned by Indy Parks. This site not only has environmental challenges, but its condition also negatively impacts the ability of private capital to come into the area and activate other parcels of land. Additionally, this site abuts the enormously-popular Monon Greenway Trail, which sees more than 1.4 million visitors a year. Indy Parks would like to remediate the environmental challenges and return this site to green space so other properties can then be returned to productive use. ***Accordingly, the City respectfully requests $3 million in FY'10 appropriations to provide environmental remediation to this Brownfield site.***

Sidewalks and ADA ramps in the Michigan Road and 71st Street Area—The North Michigan Road and 71st Street area is home to a large population of disabled residents. Currently these citizens must access business and shopping opportunities by maneuvering their wheelchairs along city streets. This project would add sidewalks, ADA accessible ramps and concrete pad connections to bus shelters. This project will add over 4050' feet of sidewalk and approximately 48 ADA accessible ramps to the Indianapolis pedestrian system. The project area extends from 71st Street/Westlane Road to Township Line Road along Michigan Road, from Michigan Road to Township Line Road along 71st Street/Westlane Road, and from Michigan Road to Portland Square along Township Line Road. ***Accordingly, the City respectfully requests $800,000 in FY'10 appropriations to provide for these key infrastructure improvements.***

Indianapolis Cultural Trail (Washington Street from Pennsylvania Street to West Street)— The Indianapolis Cultural Trail is a world-class, urban bike and pedestrian path that promotes fitness and physical activity. It also supports alternative means of transportation along its eventual 7.5 mile swath of downtown Indianapolis for the more than 20,000 residents who live in the City center. Moreover, the planned path of the bike and pedestrian trail will connect many of the key commercial centers of downtown Indianapolis in an effort to encourage alternative transportation modes for downtown residents and visitors. It is anticipated that 70% of the project's cost will be covered by private donations. Phase I of the project, consisting of the first ½ mile segment of the trail, has been constructed. Phases II and III are currently bid and set to begin construction. This request covers the segment on Washington Street from Pennsylvania Street to West Street, literally connecting the east and west sides of downtown with an intermodal trail. ***The City respectfully requests $2 million in FY'10 appropriations for the construction of a portion of the Indianapolis Cultural Trail.***

HARMONI: Historic Midtown Initiative on Meridian Street, Westfield to 54th St.— HARMONI is an outgrowth of a community initiative to achieve some infrastructure improvements in a heavily residential area that is also positioned along a major thoroughfare. The Phase I effort focuses on pedestrian improvements such as sidewalks and crosswalks, landscaped medians, and improvements to the Meridian Street bridge. ***The City respectfully requests $1.5 million in FY'10 appropriations for infrastructure improvements in the HARMONI area.***

We would greatly appreciate any support you can provide in helping to secure federal funding for the critical projects and programs identified above. If you require any additional information on any of these projects, please let me know.

Best Regards,

Gregory A. Ballard
Mayor
City of Indianapolis