



Indianapolis  
Urban League

August 2015

## The African American Coalition Update

On August 13th, Indianapolis African American Coalition hosted by the Indianapolis Urban League convened an educational session where attendees learned about educational advocacy, activities and services provided member organizations and educational reform groups. Information was presented by the Indianapolis Urban League, 100 Black Men, UNCF, NAACP, Indiana Black Expo, The Mind Trust, the Mayor's Office for Education Innovation, The Friedman Foundation, Stand for Children Indianapolis, and the Institute for Quality Education. The goal of the session was to become better informed about our respective efforts while opening doors for new or collective collaborations to improve educational opportunities and support services throughout our community.

THE INDIANAPOLIS AFRICAN AMERICAN COALITION  
PRESENTS  
A PUBLIC SAFETY SESSION

AUGUST  
27, 2015  
THURSDAY  
530PM - 730PM

**JOIN US**

Hear about critical issues impacting public safety and law enforcement in our community. Joining us will be Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Chief Rick Hite and IMPD leaders.

During the session, IMPD will share valuable information about:

- Department of Public Safety focus areas and related statistics
- Focus areas' intervention efforts and results
- IMPD strategies and goals for diversity in recruitment and hiring

**LOCATION:**  
REGIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER (ROC)  
AT FORMER EASTGATE MALL  
(USE SHAZELAND AVENUE PARKING & ENTRANCE)

100 BLACK MEN OF INDPLS | CIRCLE CITY LINKS | GREATER INDIANAPOLIS NAACP | INDIANA BLACK EXPO  
INDIANA BLACKS IN PHILANTHROPY | INDIANAPOLIS CHAPTER OF THE LINKS  
INDIANAPOLIS PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION | INDIANAPOLIS URBAN LEAGUE | MINORITY HEALTH COALITION  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK JOURNALISTS | NATIONAL BLACK MBA ASSOCIATION - INDPLS CHAPTER  
NATIONAL COALITION OF 100 BLACK WOMEN - INDPLS CHAPTER | NATIONAL COALITION ON EDUCATING BLACK CHILDREN  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION - JESUIT SECTION | NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL  
SIGMA PI PHI ALPHA ETA BOULE | UNCF

RSVP: INDYAAACOALITION@GMAIL.COM

The next Indianapolis African American Coalition session will focus on Public Safety, and it will take place Thursday, August 27th, at 5:30pm at the Department of Public Safety's Regional Operations Center (ROC).

Attendees must be invited by member organizations which include the Indianapolis Urban, 100 Black Men, Circle City Links, the Greater Indianapolis NAACP, IBE, Indiana Blacks in Philanthropy, Indpls Chapter of The Links, Indianapolis Professionals Association, Minority Health Coalition, National Association of Black Journalists, National Black MBA Association -Indianapolis Chapter, National Coalition of 100 Black Women - Indianapolis Section, National Pan-Hellenic Council, Sigma Pi Phi Alpha Eta Boule and UNCF.

## **Statement and Collective Call for Body Cameras and Dashboard Cameras for All IMPD Officers.**

"Our community laments the variety of circumstances that led to the death of Andre Green. Our prayers extend to his family, the victim(s) of the alleged carjacking and the law enforcement officers involved in the recent events. We encourage a complete, timely and thorough investigation so that justice and understanding may prevail. We understand and feel the frustration the entire community feels at times like this. Despite sharing a deep and profound sense of grief, anger and concern regarding the various issues that impact our city, we stand to affirm our commitment to healing our community, enriching the lives of our residents and guests and promoting standards and values that build competence and confidence. To that end we call and will work for the following:

- \* increased public awareness of the various processes that exist, or need to exist, relating to use of force and law enforcement protocols
- \* acquisition of dash and body cameras and the establishment of appropriate policy, procedures and controls therein for the protection of civilians and law enforcement personnel.
- \* increased awareness of the number of and access to unlicensed firearms among and impacting youth and address the degree this access is aided and abetted by adults
- \* increased capacity and vigilance to focus energy and resources on family support and strengthening and to address the health, educational, economic, social and political variables that negatively impact the lives of residents and guests

We recognize that law enforcement officers are not infallible and we encourage the community to avoid divisive and ruinous type of reactions (on all sides) to the challenges we and other cities face. Additionally, we salute current leadership at IMPD for their commitment to dialogue, partnership and to justice within and outside of the department. We call for the Mayor, City Council leadership and all candidates for elected office to support and work for the acquisition of body and dash cams and the tools and policies/procedures that can promote confidence among law enforcement and the civilians they serve. Finally, we encourage the seasoned and emerging generation of community leadership to intentionally and forcefully engage your spheres of influence in dialogue about the issues raised by incidents like this with the resolve to support the recommendations herein and to promote a peaceful and thriving community we all call home."

Signed:

Tony Mason, CEO  
Indianapolis Urban League

James Garrett Jr., Executive Director  
Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males

Nuri Muhammad, Minister  
Nation of Islam

Mikal Saahir, Imam  
Nur Allah Islamic Center

Marshawn Wolley, President  
Indianapolis Urban League Young Professionals

Leroy Wadlington, Pastor  
Pilgrim Baptist Church

Dr. David Hampton, Senior Pastor  
Light of the World Christian Church

Dr. Preston Adams, Senior Pastor  
Amazing Grace Christian Church

Kenya Turner  
The Men of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity Inc.,  
Alpha Alpha Omega Indianapolis Alumni  
Waters Miller Group

Micheal Jones, Senior Pastor  
Progressive Missionary Baptist Church

Tim Nation  
Peace Learning Center

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## **An Urban Affair: 50th Anniversary Celebration October 3, 2015**

The inaugural Urban Affair will be held on October 3, 2015 at the exclusive Lucas Estate. Guests will learn about and celebrate the legacy of the Indianapolis Urban League as we salute corporations, organizations, and/or individuals who have displayed an unwavering commitment to diversity. This is a black-tie, fundraiser event and you will have an opportunity to make an additional contribution to support the Indianapolis Urban League and its programs and services.

Event and table sponsorships begin at \$2,500 and individual tickets cost \$250.



For more information on becoming a sponsor or attending the event, contact Jaree Ervin at 317.693.7603 or [jervin@indplsul.org](mailto:jervin@indplsul.org).

**Indianapolis Urban League  
Educational Excellence Forum and  
Awards Luncheon  
featuring Keynote Speaker  
Lisa Leslie**



**September 23, 2015 12:00 pm**

The Indianapolis Urban League in conjunction with the American Federation for Children will host the IUL's inaugural Educational Excellence Awards Forum and Luncheon featuring WNBA Champion and Olympic Gold Medalist, Lisa Leslie on September 23 at noon. During the luncheon, we will celebrate local public, charter and private schools whose students have achieved academic excellence. The forum and awards luncheon is an invitation only event.

**Are you a young  
professional looking for like  
minded individuals to  
connect with?**



The Indianapolis Urban League's young professional group The Exchange will hold its next general body meeting on September 17, 2015 at 6:00 pm at the Indianapolis Urban League 777 Indiana Ave. The Exchange is an excellent choice for individuals, 21-45 looking for a group of civic minded individuals. The Exchange believes that socially conscientious and empowered young urban professionals will serve as the next cadre of business, civic and community leaders in the 21st century, and that they will implement a progressive vision for the Central Indiana region.

**New Beginnings Program**

The Indianapolis Urban League's (IUL) September 2015 New Beginning program will take place September 14th - September 25th from 9:00 am-1:00 pm daily. In order to be considered for enrollment into the New Beginnings Program, all applicants must attend the mandatory Information Session on Thursday, September 10th at 11:00 am

at the Indianapolis Urban League (777 Indiana Avenue).

## **Indianapolis Urban League Professional Advantage Program**

If you know of someone that is unemployed and has a college degree, professional certification and/or at least 10 years of verifiable professional work experience, please encourage them to attend the Indianapolis Urban League's Professional Advantage Program. This is an excellent opportunity for degree and credentialed professionals to receive the assistance and support needed to find employment! The next information session for the program will be held October 8, 2015 at 11:00 am.

## **Welcome the newest members of the Indianapolis Urban League Team!**

The Indianapolis Urban League has named LaRona Dixon, director of health and wellness and hired Shar'ron Mason as a support specialist and Jose Reyes Jimenez as a counselor and tester for the Special Population Support Program. Dixon comes to the Indianapolis Urban League after having served as a wellness director for the YMCA, while Mason and Jimenez previously held positions with Christian Theological Seminary and MCHD/Eskenazi Health, respectively.



LaRona Dixon



Shar'ron Mason



Jose "Reyes" Jimenez

## **IUL Back to School Block Party presented by McDonald's**

On August 8, 2015, the Indianapolis Urban League held the Back to School Block Party presented by McDonald's. Thanks to generous support from McDonald's, Geico, Office Max, WalMart, HealthNet, the Indiana Pacers, United Water, Radio One Indianapolis, IMPD, IFD, Indianapolis Public Library, and the United Way of Central Indiana, nearly 500 students received free back packs, school supplies and kids IDs. Also, free health screenings were provided by HealthNet. In addition to the students and their families, other guests included Governor Mike Pence, Congressman Andre' Carson and State Representative Robin Shackelford.



## **NASCAR Drive for Diversity Community Expo and Pit Crew Combine at the IUL!**

On July 25, 2015, the Indianapolis Urban League in partnership with NASCAR, Max Siegel Inc., Rev Racing and the National Urban League's Young Professionals hosted NASCAR's Drive For Diversity Community Expo and Pit Crew Combine Challenge. During the breakfast and pit crew combine challenge that followed, attendees learned about NASCAR's Drive for Diversity Pit Crew Development Program which is a comprehensive training program for aspiring minority and female pit crew members. The audience witnessed a demonstration and competition that highlighted the athleticism, fundamentals, discipline and confidence required to be a pit crew member of a NASCAR racing team. Notable speakers included Max Siegel, owner of Rev Racing, Brandi Richards, president National Urban League Young Professionals, and Dawn Harris, director of diversity affairs and multicultural development for NASCAR.



Indianapolis Urban League  
Sam H. Jones Center  
777 Indiana Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Providing direct services that help individuals and communities help themselves.

**STAY CONNECTED**

