



Indianapolis
Urban League

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January 27, 2021

**Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.**

House Veterans Affairs and Public Safety
Indiana General Assembly
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202

We appreciate the opportunity to present our concerns including our opposition to HB 1033 and ask that our position be read into the record as part of the hearing on this matter.

The Indianapolis Urban League has been a long-time proponent of positive police and community relations. We believe that trust is a key component in 21st century policing because it leads to legitimacy. Unfortunately, large segments of our community view the police department as an occupying force. Currently large segments of the Black community feel more “policed” than a feeling a safety that should be part of being a law abiding citizen in any community.

HB 1033 removes a requirement that officers live not more than 50 miles from the community that they serve. We believe communities that have police officers living in them are not only safer but the act itself is consistent with the elimination of barriers between the police and community. If the police are to be part of the community, we believe the police should live in our communities.

We also note the fundamental unfairness of tax dollars leaving our communities both in the form of property and income taxes but also the vehicles we as Marion County residents pay for and maintain through our tax dollars.

We believe this bill moves in the wrong direction for building both the trust and legitimacy necessary in 21st century policing.

Respectfully,

Tony Mason

Tony Mason
President & CEO