

## Mayoral Candidates

July 28, Damien Center

Attendance: Art Adams, Kim Boyd, Lori Casson, Andrea DeMink, Cindy Goedesky, Colleen Gore, Heather Hamm, Don Hawkins, Chris Holtz, William Hurd, Sandy Jeffers, Shelley Landis, Cheveria Minor, Audrey Nannenga, Amanda Poston, David Price, Courtney Purnell, Jami Schnurpel, Nicole Spacey, Amy Spinks, Tyler Stumm, Kirk Taylor, Karin Thornburg, Jeremy Turner, Jenni White, Chris Wynn

Guests: Chuck Brewer (R), Joan Harvey, Joe Hogsett (D), Matt Holland, Aritha Luster

Brewer (R)

### **Opening Statement**

Mayoral candidate Brewer provided background on himself. He owns Potbelly Sandwich Shop on Monument Circle, where he hires largely from the re-entry population. Prior to that, he worked for Sears Corp Holdings in Chicago. Brewer served in the United States Marine Corps for two combat tours.

Brewer talked about building coalitions and teams as a way to eliminate poverty. He said the city, under his guidance, would act allocate resources and act as a convener.

### **Root causes of homelessness**

In addressing the root causes of homelessness, Brewer mentioned a cycle of crisis. The city is currently trying to support its infrastructure without true resources. Brewer said the city would act as an expert planner and that he would like to bring minds together to help solve this crisis.

### **Indy reflecting Utah's strategy?**

Brewer said there is huge financial incentive for the city to crack that code. The city is never in the business of building houses. The city should create the right environment with policies and tax breaks to create affordable housing or additional housing units.

### **Maintain or expand services/teams?**

Brewer said homelessness is a real issue for me and that he sees it every day. So he sees the work of the outreach teams.

Brewer said Indianapolis receives \$990M from taxes and 92 percent of that goes to public safety, the remaining 8 percent is used for everything else. Indianapolis' expenses are \$1.03B, so there's a \$13M shortfall. He added that the city has to be strategic.

### **Filling gaps**

He suggested creating a skeletal structure with providers working in multiple categories and then the city would fill in the necessary gaps. He said corporate partners would be more likely to fill in when there is a plan.

Joe Hogsett (D)

### **Opening Statement**

Hogsett said the city has placed too much burden on non-profits. He said that as Mayor it is his solemn responsibility to address homelessness. He would use the authority of the mayor to coordinate housing and employment opportunities for our neighbors.

### **Homeless Jesus**

He voiced his support for the erection of Homeless Jesus.

### **New appointed member**

He pledged to appoint/employ a member of the CoC to implement a transition team. Position is important and reflects the entirety of the city.

### **City's role**

He also said the city would act as a convener. Collaboration would be the rule, not the exception. He would use next year's Conference of US Mayors to collect ideas on best practices in addressing homelessness. But he said the plan would need to be Indy-centric.

He added that budget realities will dictate how much the city is able to do.

### **Tools in addressing homelessness**

Hogsett voiced his support for Housing First. Saying it saves money and could be used effectively in Indy. He also said he supported a 24-hour crisis center similar to San Antonio. In addition, Hogsett would train IMPD officers to work closer with service providers so people with mental health, addiction, etc. are addressed compassionately.

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting is September 28 at the Legacy Center. William and Heather will talk about the processes of the Indiana Housing Authority.