



# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Public Safety Director Dr. Frank Straub and Chief of Police Paul Ciesielski announced today the results of a three week long internal investigation into the allegations of excessive force used by several Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) officers during the arrest of 15 year-old Brandon Johnson.

The incident occurred on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 when officers responded to a burglary in progress call. During that investigation, officers arrested Johnson and his arrest resulted in visible injuries to his face.

As a result of the internal investigation Chief Ciesielski has recommended the termination of Officer Jerry Piland, a 3 ½ year veteran of the IMPD. The investigation revealed that Officer Piland continued to deliver open palm strikes and possibly knee strike to Brandon's head after two other officers had control of Brandon and were attempting to handcuff him.

The four additional officers, Officers Stacy Lettinga, David Carney, Jake Clouthier and Sgt. Josh Shaughnessy were all cleared of wrongdoing as it pertains to the use of excessive force. All of the officers who had been removed from the street pending this investigation will be returned to their street duties immediately.

"Let me be clear. The IMPD has a zero tolerance policy regarding the use of excessive force," said Chief of Police Paul Ciesielski. "We have promised an open, honest and transparent investigation and we have accomplished that."

Piland will be placed on suspension without pay pending his termination which will be reviewed by the civilian police merit board.

Director Straub would like to recognize the IMPD professional standards division. In less than a month they have conducted a thorough and objective investigation. He supports the division's findings, the Chief's recommendation regarding discipline and his plan to address the issues identified. "However,



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we are not finished” said Director Straub “the lessons learned during the course of the investigation indicate there is more work to be done.” Director Straub will engage members of the community to participate in the process of improving IMPD training as well as community policing practices.

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*The Department of Public Safety consists of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, the Indianapolis Fire Department, Animal Care and Control, and Emergency Management. These divisions emphasize the safety of the citizenry. It is the effort of the department to take a proactive approach to public safety requiring establishing and maintaining community partnerships.*

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