





## **NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release: August 22, 2024

Media Contacts:

Jeff Harris, Wayne Township, 317-246-6269 or <a href="mailto:jeff.harris@waynetwp.org">jeff.harris@waynetwp.org</a>
Rita Reith, Indianapolis Fire Department, 317-716-6272 or <a href="mailto:rita.reith@indy.gov">rita.reith@indy.gov</a>
Hank Harris, Indianapolis Professional Firefighters Local 416 Local 416, 317-262-5161 or hank.harris@l416.com

## STATEMENT ON FIRE DEPARTMENT MERGER

INDIANAPOLIS – Today the City of Indianapolis, Wayne Township and Indianapolis Professional Firefighters Local 416 issued the following joint statement on the merger of the Wayne Township Fire Department with the Indianapolis Fire Department.

"Over the last six months we've been discussing merging the Wayne Township Fire Department with the Indianapolis Fire Department. It has been an open and productive conversation that included deep dives into finances, operations, personnel and the tax structures that support the fire protection services. However, given the complexity of this multi-million-dollar merger, all parties have agreed it will not be feasible to complete by January 1, 2025, as we had initially hoped and planned. For now, and for the foreseeable future, the Wayne Township Fire Department will remain its own entity providing fire services to Wayne Township residents.

We thank the teams from the City of Indianapolis, Wayne Township, Local 416 and both fire departments for their hard work on this merger and we look forward to continuing our long partnership to provide world-class fire protection to Indianapolis."

###