



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAYOR JOE HOGSETT, INDY PUBLIC SAFETY FOUNDATION, DOWNTOWN INDY, INC ANNOUNCE ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES FOR B-LINK TECHNOLOGY DOWNTOWN

Downtown small businesses encouraged to apply for public safety camera grants

INDIANAPOLIS (February 9, 2023) — Today Mayor Joe Hogsett joined the Indy Public Safety Foundation (IPSF) and Downtown Indy, Inc. (DII) to announce available grant funding to Downtown Indianapolis businesses for the b-link camera program. The program allows registration of personal and business security cameras to create a network of live-stream video access for IMPD to utilize in the event of a crime or incident in the vicinity. Mayor Hogsett appeared alongside City-County Councillor Kristin Jones and leadership from the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD), IPSF, DII, and Huse Culinary.

"Since the City debuted the b-link program in 2019, dozens of businesses have taken part, helping gather critical video evidence for IMPD to solve and prevent crime," said Mayor Joe Hogsett. "Through our collaboration with Downtown Indy, Inc., we're able to focus today's funding effort specifically on Downtown businesses, offering an easy and affordable way to partner with the City on increased Downtown safety efforts."

Last week, Mayor Hogsett joined partners to announce \$500,000 worth of grants available to small businesses throughout Indianapolis. Thanks to a \$3.5 million partnership with Downtown Indy, Inc. to enhance Downtown public safety, cleanliness, and homeless outreach, an additional \$75,000 in b-link grants will be available specifically for Downtown small businesses. Both Downtown and neighborhood businesses should use the same application available at blinkindy.org.

"As early adopters of b-link, downtown businesses have seen firsthand the benefits of the program; what's more, this grant opportunity will extend a helping hand to any business owners who wish to participate—strengthening our entire community," said Dane Nutty, executive director of the Indy Public Safety Foundation. "This truly puts the public first in public safety by supporting those who provide a welcoming front door to all who visit our city."

B-link technology is in use, currently, through more than 120 cameras registered to 33 Indianapolis businesses.

The b-link program is supported via expanded funds through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and is managed by IPSF. The b-link program represents a continuation of Mayor Hogsett's three-year, \$150 million violence reduction strategy, which also featured a \$9 million investment in public safety technology. In addition to the extra \$75,000 for b-link grants, the \$3.5 million partnership between the City and Downtown Indy, Inc. also includes funding for overtime for IMPD bike patrols, a new Downtown cleaning crew, more trash receptacles, new homeless outreach workers, and more.

“The City of Indianapolis’ \$3.5 million investment in Downtown has paved the way for more businesses to benefit from additional safety resources and more crime-fighting technology, including an expansion of the highly successful b-link security camera program,” said DII President & CEO Taylor Schaffer. “This type of collaboration, between city leaders, public safety officials, and Downtown stakeholders is critical for maintaining Downtown’s position as the safest district in Marion County.”

“We often hear from community members – what can I do to help?” said IMPD Deputy Chief Joshua Barker. “The b-link program is a great way for them to get involved, provide critical video that in turn helps IMPD solve crimes and hold violent preparators accountable.”

Participants can work with an integrator to guarantee proper installation and network connection; additionally, a small monthly fee ensures cameras are operable and available via a cloud-based server. Applications close on March 17 for spring grants awards. Depending on participation in the first round of funding, there may be opportunities for additional support in the future. For more information about the program or to apply for funding, please visit blinkindy.org.

Pictures of the event are available [here](#) and b-roll footage of b-link cameras is available [here](#).

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