

February 9, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Information:

Adam Kirsch

(317) 435-7502 (c)

(317) 637-3366 (w)

akirsch@marioncountymocrats.org

Up in Smoke?

Democratic Council Leaders Respond to Ballard Veto Threat

Indianapolis – Today Mayor Ballard’s spokesman announced to the Indianapolis Star that the Mayor would veto the strongly supported, bi-partisan Proposal 18 which strengthens and expands smoke-free establishments to include bars, bowling alleys, restaurants and hotel rooms.

The issue has been one that required compromise, and both opponents and supporters of expanding our current smoking ordinance have offered and agreed to compromises.

“It seems hard to believe that after all the collaboration and compromise that occurred, and the Council passed this proposal by a vote of 19 to 9, we are now faced with a veto” said councilor Angela Mansfield, who has long led the charge on this important health and economic development issue.

Mayor Ballard made it clear that he would only sign a bill that allowed private clubs, such as veteran’s halls, to be exempt from a mandate. The Council understands the mayor’s priority on this single issue, and is well aware and proud of his service as a U.S. Marine.

“In response to the Mayor’s priority, Proposal 18 allows members of private clubs to hold their own vote to decide if they wish to be a smoking or non-smoking facility,” said Councilor John Barth, a sponsor of bi-partisan Proposal 18.

“Council members worked hard on this proposal and addressed the Mayor’s concerns. The result was a bipartisan compromise that met the expectations of the community and the Mayor,” said Council President Maggie Lewis, “The measure was approved by a strong majority of council and is supported by a wide majority of Marion County residents. Let’s get this work done, and keep tackling the other issues that are most important – creating jobs, improving our schools and making this an even better place to live.”

####