



**THE COUNCIL
CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS
MARION COUNTY**

Andy Nielsen
Councilor – District 14

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Councilor Andy Nielsen's Response to Investigative Committee Final Report

During the last nine months, I have served as a member of the Council's bipartisan Investigative Committee, conducting an independent inquiry into instances of sexual harassment and assault by members of the Hogsett Administration. I thank the survivors for coming forward and for their profound strength and fortitude throughout this difficult process.

On Thursday, the committee members received a report from external counsel. After thoroughly reviewing, I can only conclude that while the Mayor and his Administration complied with the law and city policy as written, these standards were and remain clearly inadequate.

Additionally, the report raises serious concerns as to why Thomas Cook was allowed to remain in his position for an additional 68 days after human resources and management acted on subsequent allegations of misconduct. This period demands further scrutiny from the City-County Council and transparency from the Administration.

At a time when faith in our government is waning, public servants must work to restore trust in the effectiveness and legitimacy of our institutions—to fulfill the promise that government can work. We must confront public policy challenges with a foundation of strong values, moral convictions, and ethical decision making. Without these fundamental principles, we cannot expect the public to have confidence in our institutions' capacity to keep our promises and move our city forward. Unfortunately, recent actions have demonstrated that this distrust is too often warranted.

Ultimately, the investigation's underlying conclusion is clear: the Mayor's repeated decisions to retain Cook demonstrated a profound lack of judgement and disregard for fundamental ethics. These decisions knowingly put people in harm's way and eroded trust in institutions that we should and must hold to the highest standards. I am incredibly disappointed by this poor leadership.

My colleagues and I are already working to strengthen city policies in line with the report's recommendations. But this moment demands more: a sense of urgency, ethical public leadership, and true accountability. We must begin to deliver justice to victims and survivors, restore a higher standard of conduct for those in public service, and demonstrate that Indianapolis and its people deserve better.

I believe that our community's collective character is stronger than this – and that accountability starts with a change in leadership. Mayor Joe Hogsett must resign.

Andy Nielsen
City-County Councilor – District 14