

Media Advisory: Indianapolis Fire Department
From: Rita Reith (PIO)
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The Indianapolis Fire Department (IFD), The Indianapolis Black Firefighters Association (IBFA) and the family of IFD Engineer Justin Boyd, thank the community and the media for the outpouring of support during this difficult time. Respectfully, we are collectively declining any requests for interviews as we are all still processing the devastating events that unfolded yesterday morning. The family requests that you allow them time to grieve and refrain from contacting them. The IFD and BFA have nothing else to provide other than what we are updating via this media release. We appreciate the efforts of the community, officers and detectives on IMPD who diligently worked every lead to make an arrest yesterday regarding this homicide. Please continue to hold both of the families involved, in your prayers.

Justin Boyd "JB" will be fondly remembered on the IFD as a hard working, hard charging firefighter who's instincts on the fireground were second to none. Straight out of recruit school he was assigned to the "B" Shift where he remained during his career. He went "regular" at IFD Station 6 spending the majority of his time on Ladder 6 although he did a brief stint on Engine 6. He was definitely a "ladder guy." Throughout his career, Justin spent time mentoring new firefighters and many requested assignment at Station 6 because he took them under his wing and made them feel so welcome.

Born and raised in Ft. Wayne, IN, Justin attended Ft. Wayne North Side High School. He went on to attend both University of Findlay and the University of St. Francis but did not obtain a degree. Between 2004 -2007 Justin was an Assistant Varsity Football Coach at Northwest High School and he also coached Little League Football for the Pike Township Football League. Justin has been a professional barber for over 26 years and co-owned the Universal Barbershop at 73rd and Michigan Rd. JB was known for his gift of gab, sense of humor and for encouraging young men, who came through the shop, to consider joining the fire service - most especially the IFD.

He was an active member of the Indianapolis Black Firefighters Association, the IFD Basketball Team, which competes for yearly bragging rights against IMPD and participated for many years as part of the Dress For Success event as a firefighter escort for the models on stage. For the last 8 years, Justin was part of the IFD Deputy Fire Marshal team who worked events and football games at Lucas Oil Stadium, helping keep a watchful eye on fire safety during Colts games. He had just worked the Colts / Raiders game on Sunday.

One story that perfectly illustrates who Justin was at his core, happened in 2019 after leaving Lucas Oil Stadium. He noticed a young man about the age of 14, outside of the

stadium and engaged him in conversation. Quickly assessing that the young man was in need of help, Justin, often described as a "big teddy bear," put him up in a hotel and contacted social services. Together they worked to find him housing and additional resources. Eventually the young man reconnected with his family. In recognition for his good deed, he received a challenge coin from his Battalion Chief - which brought Justin a few tears as he said this young man reminded him so much of his son, he knew he had to help. See photo.

Nothing Further.

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