



CITY*of* **MARION**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JOINT STATEMENT ON HOMICIDES

(Marion, IN) January 11th, 2019 - As servants of this community, we are outraged at the violence that has plagued our city this past year. Most recently, the senseless deaths of two young children who had their lives taken by no fault of their own.

Once again, our community was stunned with grief, questioning when will this end. The lives of the families involved in these horrific events have been changed forever, and so has our city. To say we offer our thoughts and prayers to the families of these victims is not enough. It doesn't capture the heartache, grief and anger that we all should feel. And it does nothing to prevent the taking of life from happening again.

We currently have 8 unsolved homicides that occurred in 2018. However, in the majority of those violent deaths where a life was cut short, there were witnesses. Individuals who saw a life taken through an act of violence and yet failed to come forward to bring not only an assailant to justice, but some peace to the families and community.

We are quick to point at our public safety officers and ask, "Why don't they arrest whoever did this?" But without our citizens coming forward and vowing to take back our community, the work of our men and women in law enforcement is a daunting challenge.

Make no mistake, we will continue to work together at all levels of government, and commit whatever resources are necessary to bring these murderers to justice. We can make a difference by working together. Working together to ensure that every family will have the opportunity to live their lives in a safe community free from fear.

Jess Alumbaugh, Mayor
Rodney Faulk, Prosecutor
Angela Haley, Police Chief