



January 27, 2021

House Veterans Affairs and Public Safety  
Indiana General Assembly  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Chairman Rep. Randall Frye and committee members:

Thank you for allowing Indiana Black Expo, Inc. to provide written testimony regarding its strong opposition to HB 1033. We ask that this testimony be read into the record.

IBEF has a long history of working with law enforcement to secure events but also in pursuit of better police and community relations. We believe that positive police and community relations is key not only to public safety, but also for solving crimes that ultimately do occur.

Police and community relations are predicated on trust. Unfortunately, there is deficit of trust in large segments of our community. This impacts a willingness to report crime and undermines proactive problem solving that can occur when the police department and the community are willing to work together. We also believe communities that police officers live in are safer.

HB 1033 undermines one of the fundamental principles in police and community relations—the police should be part of the community. Our community is extremely concerned about the prospect of “being policed” by people who may have good intentions but lack a fundamental understanding of how our community works. Ideally, officers should be able to live in the communities that they serve.

We believe that the disproportionate use of force experienced by Black residents in Marion County is implicated in an unfamiliarity with our communities by some officers.

Finally, we also raise the concern about the fundamental unfairness of our tax dollars going to communities outside of Marion County due to officers living outside of the county.

We respectfully oppose HB 1033 on the forementioned grounds.

Respectfully,

*Tanya Bell Mckinzie*

Tanya Bell Mckinzie  
President & CEO  
Indiana Black Expo, Inc.