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**NEWBURGH POLICE DEPARTMENT
527 STATE STREET, NEWBURGH, IN 47630**

MEDIA RELEASE

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The Newburgh Town Council, at its April 14, 2010 meeting, read and passed Ordinance 2010-5 that abolishes the Office of Town Marshal and creates a Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners.

The Newburgh Town Council has always called its law enforcement agency a police department, but in fact, by law, the agency was considered a Town Marshal's Office. The agency has always followed several guidelines that are required by police departments and not required by a marshal's office. By Indiana Law under a marshal's office, the officers were not able to be members of the 1977 Police and Fire Pension Fund. The officers were only eligible to be members of the Public Employee Pension Fund (PERF). Under the 1977 Fund, the officer's families are entitled to survivors benefits, unlike under regular PERF; there are no benefits for families.

This ordinance will not change any standard operating procedures that the department operates under nor will it affect the normal day to day operations of the department.

Chief Brett E. Sprinkle of the Newburgh Police Department has been working on this project for approximately two years and about six months ago was approached by Officer Chad Bailey to continue working on this project. Officer Bailey prepared a Power Point presentation on this topic and presented it to the Newburgh Town Council and one month later the Newburgh Town Council voted to approve the ordinance.

With the approval of the ordinance, the Newburgh Police Department will change its hiring procedures by instituting a post physical and post psychological evaluation under the requirements of the 1977 Police and Fire Pension Fund. The department will also no longer be able to hire anyone over the age of thirty-six (36) under this fund.

The Newburgh Town Council and the officers of the Newburgh Police Department feel that this will help keep the department in line with other departments in the area and boost morale.