



2017 CARE Bags Program

(Community Action Relief Effort)

On March 20th, the City of Indianapolis partnered with Gleaners Food Bank to pilot a *Community Action Relief Effort (CARE) Bags Program*. Through this pilot, the Office of Public Health and Safety will coordinate with Gleaners to provide sacks of groceries to Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) officers operating out of the East District for distribution directly to residents in need.

The *CARE Bags* pilot is an expansion of the CARE Mobile Pantry Program, which provides fresh groceries once a week during the summer to locations where families are known to be food-insecure. In 2016, nearly 45,000 people – including more than 18,000 infants and children and nearly 3,000 senior citizens – received food from a CARE Mobile Pantry.



CARE Bags contain nonperishable food items that can easily be stored in an Officer's car.

The *CARE Bags* pilot will increase the availability of these nutritious food items as IMPD officers in East District begin carrying sacks of groceries in their cruisers. The officers will have the ability to distribute these sacks directly to the individuals and families they are called upon to serve.

The *CARE Bags* pilot will also serve as a test of the City's new social service referral system, Community Officer. The mobile application will allow IMPD officers to make referrals from the field for services related to food insecurity, case management, behavioral and healthcare resources and other community-based interventions. The Office of Public Health and Safety will coordinate with local service providers to ensure residents referred through the *CARE Bags* pilot receive the information and resources they need to address these underlying root causes of crime.

"Our partnership with Gleaners enables law enforcement to address underlying insecurities that often lead to crime and social disorders," said Chief Bryan Roach. "By supporting efforts that meet the core needs of our community together, we are addressing the root causes of crime."

6/26/2017