FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 18, 2022

**Police and Fire Ramp up Community Engagement this Fall**

Near the end of the summer, Gibson’s Skating rink once again hosted the annual Back to School Skating Party, courtesy of the Muncie Police Department. Kids of all ages enjoyed a free night of skating alongside the law enforcement officers that serve their communities. Both the Muncie Police Department and the Muncie Fire Department are consistently hosting community engagement events this fall.

Community engagement is an important element in public safety. Studies indicate that Police Departments who regularly interact with the public achieve higher levels of trust and communication. For Fire Departments, community engagement is a great way to spread public safety information and help children gain familiarity with fire safety.

“We’re visiting local schools and child care facilities daily,” reported Fire Chief Mead. The Fire Department discusses fire safety and lets the kids interact with firefighting apparatus. In addition to EMS being on site for Ball State and high school football games, the Homecoming Parade, and Ironman, the Fire Department is very actively involved in the community.

Another community engagement event is on the 20th, where a few members of the police department will be volunteering to read to kids at Grissom Elementary’s Lights On After School event. The event is to promote literacy and help children reach reading level milestones by third grade. “We love supporting these types of events,” commented Police Chief Nathan Sloan. “It’s a great way to help the kids feel safe with us.”

On October 25th, the Muncie Police Department and the Delaware County Sheriff’s Department will be partnering with the Southside Neighborhood Association for an evening of kickball and basketball. The event, which will be held at Ball Corp Park, will run from 5:30 to 8 and will include refreshments.

This Halloween, Police and Fire will again be holding a joint Trunk or Treat event, for the third year in a row. Families are invited to swing by City hall on Halloween Monday from 6-8 and enjoy candy, hot dogs, and popcorn while supplies last.