

The logo for the Indianapolis Medical Society features the word "INDIANAPOLIS" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font at the top. Below it, the word "MEDICAL SOCIETY" is written in a larger, bold, blue, sans-serif font. A stylized caduceus symbol, consisting of a red staff with a white snake-like figure and a yellow star at the top, is positioned to the left of the word "MEDICAL".

INDIANAPOLIS  
**MEDICAL SOCIETY**

June 9, 2020

Indianapolis-Marion County City-County Council  
Public Safety & Criminal Justice Committee

Dear Councillors:

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Indianapolis Medical Society Board of Directors, we are emailing in advance of the meeting of the Public Safety Committee on Wednesday June 10, 2020 because of our concern about the dire public health implications of IMPD using chemical agents, especially CS tear gas and OC pepper spray, on our community during the recent protests. Both these chemical agents are respiratory irritants and can have dangerous short- and long-term effects, compounded by chronic conditions and the ongoing global respiratory viral pandemic. As you know, CS gas is banned in war, and it is unconscionable that it is not also outlawed for use in civilians. There has already been a report of at least one protestor killed by respiratory failure after exposure to tear gas, and it is only a matter of time before we have a similar death locally if the use of chemical irritants continues.

As the Executive Committee of the Indianapolis Medical Society Board of Directors, we appreciate the Council's stand against racism and the recognition of racism as a public health crisis. We urge you and the Public Safety Committee to use your oversight power over IMPD to ban the use of chemical irritant agents, including CS tear gas and OC pepper spray, on our community.

Sincerely,

Eric E. Tibesar, MD  
President

Linda Feiwell Abels, MD  
President-Elect

Jodi L. Smith, MD  
Secretary/Treasurer

Ann Marie Hake, MD  
Board Chair

Mercy O. Obeime, MD  
Vice Board Chair

Ann C. Collins, MD  
Member At-Large

Susan K. Maisel, MD  
ISMA Liaison