

Mayor Greg Ballard Speaks to the Indianapolis SCORE Chapter on "The Business Climate in Indianapolis"

On May 10, 2011, Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard was the guest speaker at the monthly SCORE membership meeting which was held at the Pyramids, Building #3, I-465 and Michigan Road. Mayor Ballard brought the membership up to date on business conditions in Indianapolis



SCORE Chairman Detlef Rathmann introduces Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard

and related how the city's economic development is working to attract firms to the Circle City. *"It is clear that Indianapolis is well-poised for recovery," Mayor Ballard said. "Our stable, affordable, and pro-growth economic environment is a great place for companies to grow and prosper, thanks to our fiscal stability, low tax structure, competitive real estate market, efficient utilities and ample cultural and recreational amenities. These are just a few of the reasons Indianapolis is a great place to do business."*

Mayor Ballard went on to say, *"We are glad that companies are recognizing all that Indianapolis offers in business including our central location that allows companies to*

easily reach national and international customers, our low cost of doing business and the availability of well-trained, talented workers. We are proud of companies who are partnering in our economic development efforts to boost our economy and bring quality jobs to Hoosier workers."

The Mayor discussed such diverse topics as the upcoming Super Bowl impact on Indianapolis, the Cultural Trails, jobs creation, new developments such as the new Wishard hospital, etc.

RebuildIndy is another of Mayor Ballard's initiatives to transform the city through investment in infrastructure improvements to restore deteriorating thoroughfares, residential streets, sidewalks and bridges, as well as address neighborhood drainage and flooding issues and demolish unsalvageable abandoned homes that pose a public safety threat to neighborhoods.

Following his speech, SCORE members bombarded Mayor Ballard with numerous questions about how SCORE can work with the city government to effectively build and support the local business community. SCORE and **Develop Indy**, which is headed by Scott Miller, can serve as a cooperative link to support small business development in the city. SCORE is already involved with many business organizations around the city and has added SCORE branches around the city in the suburbs of Noblesville, Avon, and Greenwood (The Mayor of Greenwood was in attendance.).

The Mayor also related how he had once been counseled by a SCORE member some years ago. Although the Mayor could not remember the counselor's name, he did remember that the counselor once had a small ice cream shop in the city. Older counselors remembered the name of the counselor as Les Kersey.

SCORE, Counselors to America's Small Business, is a diverse group of experienced business professionals - retired, semi-retired and working. They provide real world business advice to start-up and growing small businesses. The Indianapolis chapter has 62 active counselors, including Indianapolis, Avon, Noblesville, and Johnson county locations. SCORE is an all-volunteer group, providing no-charge counseling to people wanting to start a small business or to grow an existing small business. To learn more about SCORE, go to www.score.org