

# IMPD Chief Wants Mandatory Sentencing

By Julian Grace

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INDIANAPOLIS (WISH) - Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Chief Rick Hite is pushing for more mandatory sentencing for those convicted of heinous crimes.

This comes after several high profile cases where the suspects were let out of prison early because of time served or for good behavior.

Hite's push is after more than a handful of people have been arrested in connection with two violent home invasions. Those crimes include sexual battery, robbery and criminal confinement.

One of the suspects is **23-year-old Alexander Dupree**. According to Department of Corrections, a judge sentenced Dupree to six years in prison for an armed robbery in 2010. However, Dupree was granted early release in April 2012.

"The heinous crimes we have seen warrant that measure," Hite said.

There are other cases Hite can use as a point of reference. **Eron Bonner** has been accused of shooting and killing Monquize Edwards on July 4th in downtown Indianapolis this year. Bonner was sentenced to a year and 11 months for a previous crime. He served less than a year in prison for that sentence before he was released. Four months after his early release, police say he shot and killed Edwards.

Then there is **Shamus Patton** who fired shots in a downtown crowd in 2010. After being convicted, a judge sentenced Patton to eight years in prison but in less than two years, his sentence was transferred over to a work release program.

"We need to talk about mandatory sentencing, and we have to send a message to those that engage in that activity," Hite said.

Hite plans to make his request to state legislatures; however, House Bill 1006 could change how much time a suspect will serve. Currently felons must serve 50 percent of their time, but some get out early because of good behavior. Starting in 2014, those convicted of felonies must serve at least 75 percent of their sentence.

IMPD has been actively working with U.S. Attorney Joe Hogsett to identify cases that could be tried in federal court. Those convicted of federal crimes must serve at least 85 percent of their sentence.