

To: rmccloskey@ics-charter.org

Subject: Thunderbird Commerce Center

Hi Principal McCloskey – Mark Leach and I represent a client with a project at the Thunderbird Commerce Center. We would love find some time to meet and discuss the details with you. Would you have any time late next week? I'm not sure about your Spring Break schedule so just let us know.

Thanks,
Mindy

Mindy Westrick Brown

Counsel

mindy.westrick@faegredrinker.com

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Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

300 N. Meridian Street, Suite 2500

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, USA

St. John Paul II Catholic High School
7301 Old Madison Pike
Huntsville, Alabama 35806

May 26, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the residents of St. John Paul II Catholic High School, I am writing to share our experience with DC BLOX as a neighbor in our community.

When the project was first proposed, residents had questions—as is typical with any new development. DC BLOX made a concerted effort to engage with our neighborhood, attend meetings, and provide clear information about their plans and operations.

The DC BLOX datacenter is immediately adjacent to our high school. Since the facility has been built and is now operating, our community has not experienced negative impacts from its presence. There has been no noticeable effect on nearby property values or the use of adjacent properties. The facility operates quietly and without disruption, and we have not observed any issues related to public health, safety, or general welfare.

DC BLOX has followed through on its commitments to be a good neighbor. Their team has remained accessible and responsive, and they have demonstrated respect for the surrounding community.

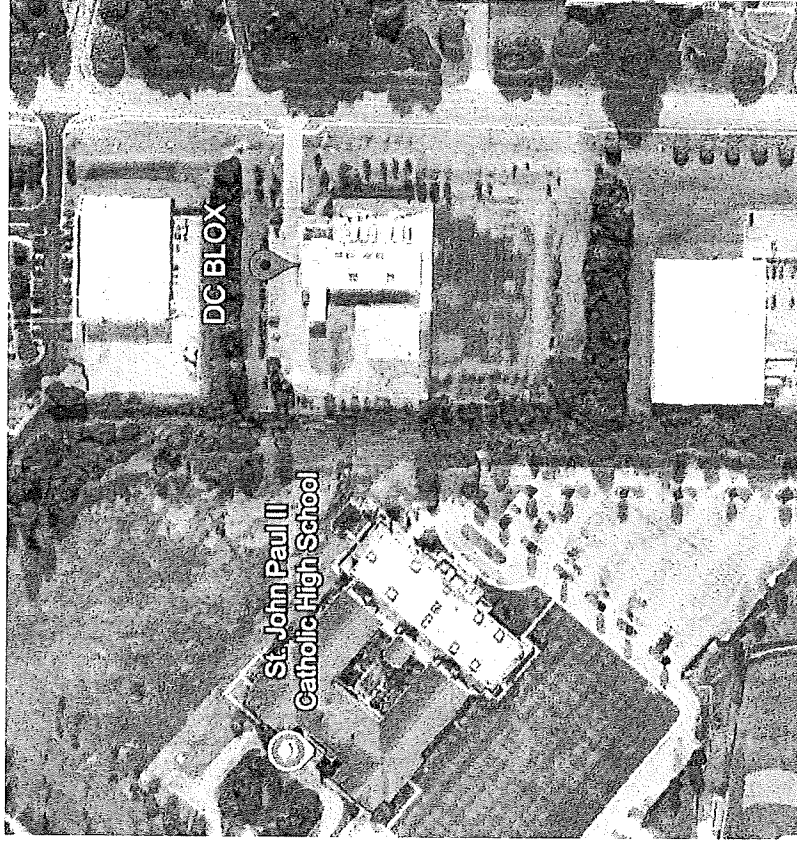
Based on our experience, we consider DC BLOX to be a responsible and reputable company that integrates well into established neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

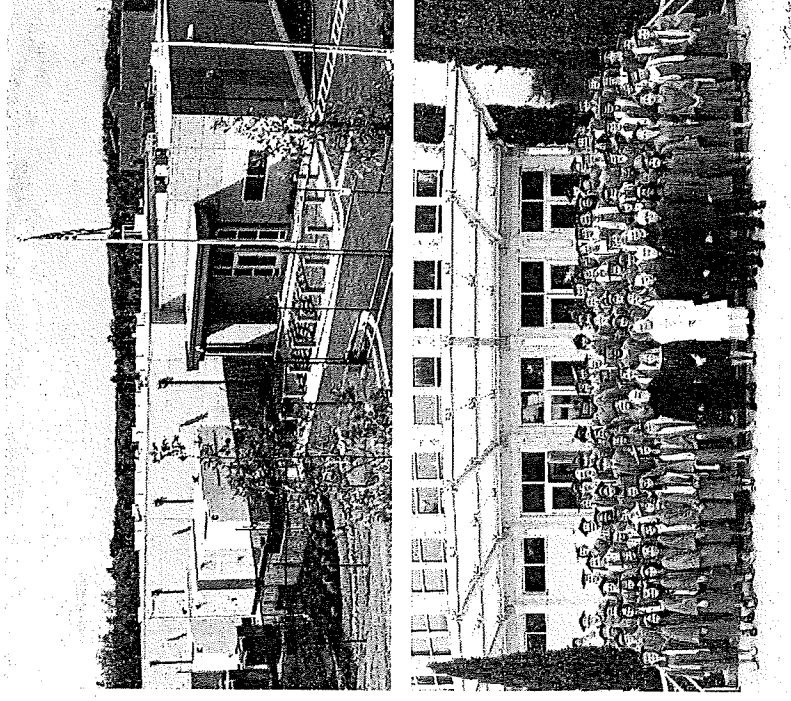
Ricky Martin

Ricky Martin
Maintenance Manager
St. John Paul II Catholic High School

School Proximity



DC BLOX – Huntsville, AL



“No noise complaints about DC BLOX, ever.” Ricky Martin, St. John Paul II Catholic High School



Irvington Community School, Inc.

Board of Governors

June 16, 2026

The ICS Board of Governors acknowledges and appreciates the parents, residents, and community members who have shared their concerns regarding the proposed data center development near Irvington Community Elementary School. We recognize the significance of this matter to our community and value the thoughtful engagement it has generated.

The health, safety, and wellness of ICS students, staff, and the broader community remain of the utmost importance to the ICS Board of Governors. The Board does not support any action or development that could have a negative effect on the well-being of our students and staff, the quality of the educational environment, or the strength and vitality of the community we serve.

The Board's focus remains on listening carefully, gathering relevant information, and ensuring that any further response or public engagement involving ICS remains firmly grounded in the best interests of our students and school community. We are watching for potential impacts, including noise, environmental considerations, and the project's proximity to the school. We take those impacts seriously.

While ICS does not hold decision-making power in these matters the Board remains committed to monitoring this matter closely and to advocating in a manner that is consistent with the mission of the school and concerns of our community. The Board remains open to feedback from all perspectives on this matter as the situation develops.

The Board's position is clear: ICS will continue to prioritize the protection, health, and educational experience of its students, staff and community. Community input is important, and the Board is committed to ensuring those concerns are heard and thoughtfully considered as this process moves forward.

Irvington Community Schools remains grateful for the continued engagement and support of its community.

Questions/comments may be submitted directly to the ICS Board of Governors at board@ics-charter.org.

Irvington Community School, Inc. Campuses:

Irvington Community Elementary School: 6705 E. Julian Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46219 / 317.357.5359 / (f) 317.357.9752 | **Irvington Community Middle School:** 6040 E. Pleasant Run Pkwy. S. Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46219 / 317.357.3850 / (f) 317.357.3860 | **Irvington Preparatory Academy:** 5751 E. University Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46219 / 317.357.3770 / (f) 317.357.8650.3786

I encourage anyone following this proposal to read the draft commitments closely. If you see a gap, raise it. I am happy to help make time for residents to share their concerns with the applicant's representatives and strengthen the final commitments.

Transparency, accountability, and local leadership matter most when a project has the potential to shape a neighborhood for decades.

Westrick Brown, Mindy

om: Westrick Brown, Mindy
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2026 10:08 AM
To: 'Megan Lapa'
Subject: RE: mtg with DC BLOX
Attachments: 2026_06_11 DCB's Supplemental Environmental Letter to Hearing Examiner.pdf

Megan - Here is some more information about the brownfield which includes the entire Thunderbird site.

Mindy Westrick Brown

Counsel

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Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
300 N. Meridian Street, Suite 2500
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, USA

From: Westrick Brown, Mindy
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2026 5:18 PM
To: 'Megan Lapa' <mlapa08@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: mtg with DC BLOX

Let me know what availability you might have for a virtual meeting later in the week.

Mindy Westrick Brown

Counsel

mindy.westrick@faegredrinker.com

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Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
300 N. Meridian Street, Suite 2500
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, USA

From: Megan Lapa <mlapa08@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2026 4:09 PM
To: Westrick Brown, Mindy <mindy.westrick@faegredrinker.com>
Subject: Re: mtg with DC BLOX

This Message originated outside your organization.

Hi Mindy,

Thanks for getting back to me -- unfortunately I have conflicting work commitments and that time doesn't work on my end.

I'm open to finding a time later in the week if that still makes sense.

Megan

On Tue, Jun 9, 2026 at 4:11 PM Westrick Brown, Mindy <mindy.westrick@faegredrinker.com> wrote:

We could meet Thursday morning if that would work for you.

Mindy Westrick Brown

Counsel

mindy.westrick@faegredrinker.com

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Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
300 N. Meridian Street, Suite 2500
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, USA

From: Megan Lapa <mlapa08@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2026 12:00 PM
To: Westrick Brown, Mindy <mindy.westrick@faegredrinker.com>
Subject: Re: mtg with DC BLOX

This Message originated outside your organization.

Hi Mindy, just wanted to check in on this since I haven't heard back - were you still hoping to schedule time to meet?

On Thu, Jun 4, 2026 at 4:41 PM Megan Lapa <mlapa08@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Mindy,

I appreciate you taking the time to read my submissions and interview, and it's exciting to hear there's interest in my feedback as an active trail user!

Once you've sent over the relevant documentation for the items in my submissions that you've identified as incorrect, I'd be happy to schedule a meeting with your client to discuss.

Thanks,

Megan

On Wed, Jun 3, 2026 at 9:33 AM Westrick Brown, Mindy <mindy.westrick@faegredrinker.com> wrote:

Yes, we have read your submissions and interview. To be more specific, we would like to provide some updates on some things that are incorrect in your filing. Also, we are planning to make some updates to the Pennsy Trail, and as a trail user, we would love to get your input. We think a sit down to better understand your concerns would be worthwhile for all parties involved. We are available to meet after hours so you do not have to rearrange your schedule.

Thanks,

Mindy

Mindy Westrick Brown

Counsel

mindy.westrick@faegredrinker.com

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Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
300 N. Meridian Street, Suite 2500
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From: Megan Lapa <mlapa08@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 1, 2026 4:57 PM

To: Westrick Brown, Mindy <mindy.westrick@faegredrinker.com>

Subject: Re: mtg with DC BLOX

This Message originated outside your organization.

Hi Mindy,

Thank you for the response. I want to be direct because my time is limited, and a request for a meeting with your client needs to have a clear purpose for me to prioritize it on such short notice.

My thoughts and concerns have been documented transparently in my submitted remonstrances, which I'm sure you already have in hand. If DC Blox would like to understand my position, that's the place to start -- I'm not in a position to take time away from work to cover ground that's already on the record and accessible to the DC Blox team.

If you believe a meeting would still be warranted, I would appreciate the courtesy of the following information before coordinating any details:

1) What items are you or your client hoping to clear up, and what is DC Blox prepared to offer or commit to in order to resolve them?

2) Is there anything concrete on the table that would require my input to move forward?

If there are tangible items to discuss, please advise.

Megan

On Mon, Jun 1, 2026 at 1:35 PM Westrick Brown, Mindy <mindy.westrick@faegredrinker.com> wrote:

We would like to address any questions or concerns you may have and explore potential ways to move forward collaboratively. I believe there are a few items that we can clear up as well if you are available to meet. At a minimum, we wanted to make sure DC BLOX was available to meet with you to better understand your thoughts and leave you with a chance for ongoing conversation after the meeting if you would like.

Thanks,

Mindy

Mindy Westrick Brown

Counsel

mindy.westrick@faegredrinker.com

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Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
300 N. Meridian Street, Suite 2500
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, USA

From: Megan Lapa <mlapa08@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 1, 2026 12:18 PM

To: Westrick Brown, Mindy <mindy.westrick@faegredrinker.com>

Subject: Re: mtg with DC BLOX

This Message originated outside your organization.

Hi Mindy,

Thank you for reaching out. Before I can consider whether a meeting makes sense, could you share what specifically you're hoping to discuss?

Thanks,
Megan

On Mon, Jun 1, 2026 at 9:48 AM Westrick Brown, Mindy <mindy.westrick@faegredrinker.com> wrote:

Hi Megan – I represent DC BLOX in the land use petition. I was wondering if you would have time on Thursday, June 4 or early Friday, June 5 to meet with some representatives from DC BLOX in person. If those dates and times are not convenient for you, let me know some dates/times that might be better for you.

Thanks,

Mindy

Mindy Westrick Brown

Counsel

mindy.westrick@faegredrinker.com

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Center Header on Line 13DC BLOX vs. DCB
Indianapolis, LLC

1 SUSAN BEECHER: Okay. I think we can
2 get started. Hopefully folks are able to find
3 parking. It's always great to see a parking lot
4 full with activity in my opinion. That means a
5 great thing.

6 John, congratulations to the 120th
7 anniversary of Irvington Presbyterian Church.
8 That's amazing. And this church is really
9 amazing. They contribute to ICAN, the food
10 pantries. They contribute to the arts. They've
11 got their own arts program. You can hear the
12 choir practicing. Just really great people.
13 Have done so much for the community. So here's
14 to another 120 years that I won't see. And maybe
15 not you, but somebody will see, right? Okay.

16 So I appreciate everybody being here.
17 Okay.

18 Needing some attention, Dawn? It's all
19 right. You've had a week.

20 We so have a quorum. And, Liz, who did
21 you say is in the parking lot, Jordan? Okay,
22 good. Okay. Because I just pulled my notebook
23 out. No, no. It should be a short meeting. If
24 you'll indulge, we'll just wait for Jordan to get
25 inside.

1 No problem. No, no, no. We are so
2 appreciative to Jordan for the minutes that she
3 does every meeting. No one ever wants to do
4 minutes, or treasurer for that thought, either.
5 But, Jordan, we appreciate you. And Chad, we
6 appreciate you. Okay. Jordan put out the May
7 council minutes. Have folks had a chance to look
8 at those and review those? If so, do we have a
9 motion for approval of those? Okay, great. Any
10 discussion? Okay. All in favor?

11 (Members respond.)

12 SUSAN BEECHER: Anyone opposed? Okay.
13 Thank you again, Jordan.

14 I don't see IMPD here. So Sydney, you
15 are on first. And thanks for coming.

16 SYDNEY STARKS: Thank you. Good
17 evening, everyone. My name is Sydney, for those
18 who do not know. I'm not feeling the greatest,
19 so I'm going to be very brief. But I was out for
20 about a week at the beginning of the month, so I
21 haven't released a June newsletter. I know
22 people have been asking questions. So I'm hoping
23 to have that done by the end of this week.

24 Also, Juneteenth is this Friday. So
25 there is a holiday. So if you are DPW or LRS

1 serviced, you will be serviced on Saturday
2 instead. So it will be a slide scheduled for
3 that day. And then for Fourth of July coming up,
4 that will be a normal trash service week. As far
5 as I know, I know that that Saturday for the
6 citizens -- or the transfer station, that will be
7 closed because that is the Fourth of July.

8 And then on behalf of IMPD, they won't
9 be having a July task force meeting due to their
10 community day. So their community day is
11 Tuesday, July 7th. And that's going to be at
12 Brookside Park, 3500 Brookside Parkway Drive,
13 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It's open and free
14 to the public. Super, super fun and a really
15 good time. I have their community day as well as
16 a few of the other districts' community days in
17 my packets as well.

18 And then they also are having their
19 National Night Out, which is August 4th, 2026.
20 And I have that information in here as well. I
21 have different resources and timely updates in
22 here all on the back table for you all to take as
23 many copies. So feel free to take multiple with
24 you. I will be here for the rest of the meeting.
25 So if you want to catch me and ask questions, you

1 are more than welcome to. And then I also have
2 my email on top of these handouts as well. Thank
3 you.

4 SUSAN BEECHER: Thank you, Sydney. Any
5 questions for Sydney? Okay. Hope you feel
6 better. Okay.

7 Andy is not with us this evening. He
8 sent a written update. If you've been following
9 Facebook at all, you probably know he's been a
10 bit busy with the proposed data center and
11 several other things with the City-County
12 Council.

13 "Good evening, neighbors. I apologize
14 for not being there with you this evening. I'm
15 presenting the Council Infrastructure Plan this
16 evening to the Rules and Public Policy Committee,
17 which I assume will go late through your meeting.
18 Providing a few updates below. As always, please
19 do not hesitate to reach out if you have any
20 questions or if I can support you in any way. It
21 is a privilege to serve you all."

22 DC BLOX Data Center update. "Thank you
23 to all the neighbors who have reached out or
24 otherwise engaged on the proposed data center at
25 the Thunderbird Commerce Center. I've heard loud

1 and clear that the committee does not want the
2 data center and I am working to do what I can to
3 stop it. Last Thursday, community council
4 leadership, neighbors, and myself testified
5 against the variance petitions in front of the
6 hearing examiner. While the hearing examiner
7 recommended approval, it now goes to the
8 Metropolitan Development Commission for final
9 approval on July 1st. I will continue to share
10 updates across my social media newsletter and
11 with neighborhood leadership. Note, the company
12 will have to go through a separate process for
13 any tax incentives, which I am vehemently opposed
14 to and will share more once I have a better sense
15 on timing. This work is not over.

16 "In regards to the Council
17 Infrastructure Plan, this is the City-County
18 Council, I am proud to be the author and lead
19 part of the team behind the newly-announced
20 Indianapolis City-County Council infrastructure
21 plan, a long-term funding proposal that would
22 generate the local matching revenue needed to
23 unlock \$50 million annually in state road funding
24 and move Indianapolis from reactive pothole
25 patching toward real planned neighborhood

1 investment. The urgency is real. Last year the
2 Indiana General Assembly created a \$50 million
3 annual funding opportunity for Indianapolis, but
4 the City must certify an eligible local match or
5 lose those dollars entirely. Not just for one
6 year, but for the future years as well. The
7 match must be made with new (indiscernible) by
8 the end of the year --

9 (Break in audio.)

10 "-- for future projects. The bottom
11 line, we either meet the match and bring \$50
12 million a year back to Indianapolis, or we leave
13 that money on the table while our roads continue
14 to deteriorate. I believe we owe it to our
15 neighbors to act.

16 "Infrastructure improvements for
17 District 14. Hopefully you've all seen some of
18 the improvements in District 14 construction.
19 The construction season is underway and strip
20 patching crews are out across the City. I am
21 pleased to share a couple of specific updates for
22 our area.

23 "Tenth Street between Emerson and
24 Shadeland was completed --" Hallelujah -- that's
25 me. "--including the absolutely dreadful area in

1 front of Si Greene's at 10th and Emerson. It is
2 important to note that this strip patching should
3 not change the timeline for the 10th Street
4 redesign work, which came as a result of
5 Community Heights Tactical Urbanism Project and
6 which is on track for 2028.

7 "Another repair or patching, Arlington
8 Avenue between Washington Street and 21st Street
9 and 10th Street from Post Road to Mitthoefer Road
10 are also scheduled for strip patching work this
11 season.

12 "Exit from (indiscernible) Middle
13 School was completed last month. While this
14 technically falls within (indiscernible), I heard
15 about the (indiscernible). I'm glad it was --"

16 (Break in audio.)

17 Questions or --

18 (Break in audio.)

19 -- when there was no road closed sign
20 and they thought I should be able to read their
21 minds. And they made us all back up between dump
22 trucks, which was exciting. So I know he's
23 getting a lot of those kinds of calls. But we've
24 got his email and his phone number, and he's very
25 responsive. So don't hesitate. And hopefully

1 he'll be here next month. So any questions on
2 that that I can't answer, but I'd be glad to take
3 back to Andy if you all need me to. He did not
4 give any Dora updates. And I didn't think to
5 ask, Francine. I think his mind's been on -- I
6 will put a bug in his ear for next month though.
7 You're right. Yeah.

8 KYLA THOMPSON: Thanks. The five
9 people are assigned by the mayor. Four people
10 are assigned by the City-County councilors. Is
11 that correct as far as you guys know?

12 SUSAN BEECHER: That's my
13 understanding.

14 KYLA THOMPSON: That's the
15 understanding. Yes, on the MDC. And so with
16 that, do we have all the names of all those nine
17 members of the MDC?

18 SUSAN BEECHER: I believe that's on the
19 government page. You can find those.

20 KYLA THOMPSON: The page. On the
21 government page.

22 SUSAN BEECHER: I looked at those I
23 think this week.

24 KYLA THOMPSON: Okay. Is there any
25 letter-writing campaign or anything of that to

1 each one of those members regarding the issues?

2 SUE BEECHER: So there is a group on
3 Facebook called No to the Data Center. Is that
4 right, Dawn?

5 KYLA THOMPSON: Yeah, I did see that.
6 I saw that.

7 SUE BEECHER: And they have listed
8 where you can send comments. That's all over the
9 page. And that's one way to do it, and many
10 people did before the first hearing.

11 Just to update you all per Councilor
12 Nielsen's encouragement, the Community Council
13 filed an appeal of the hearing examiner's
14 decision. That was done yesterday. It's amazing
15 to me the form was nowhere to be found on their
16 webpage. You couldn't find it. I had to reach
17 out to somebody in the city and get it, which I
18 think is just not good service to citizens.

19 And so that was filed and accepted.
20 The copy that has to be mailed was mailed today
21 to their attorney. And she was notified by email
22 yesterday that there is an appeal.

23 Andy, Counselor Nielsen, will be
24 spearheading that testimony during the July 1st
25 hearing. That will be the next hearing at 1:00.

1 In the last hearing they had us 18th of 18
2 issues. We were the very last. And it was hard.
3 It was hard for people. People have to work
4 during the day. And so we had probably 200
5 people there.

6 Is that Megan in the back? Hi, Megan.
7 Would you say about 200 people? Hi, Marcus. And
8 many of them had to leave because they had work,
9 right? And then people were frustrated. So we
10 had people that yelled at the end, that they had
11 to pull out. Which, you know, everybody has got
12 a different way to protest. But I'd rather stay
13 in the room with them to talk then get pulled
14 out. So I don't know how busy that schedule will
15 be July 1st. I haven't seen it. I'm not sure
16 they've even developed it.

17 But Councilor Nielsen will keep us
18 informed on that. And the strategy -- because we
19 had a strategy. You know, everybody wanted to
20 testify, but we needed to make our points about
21 why that data center shouldn't be here. And I
22 think the main point is that 83 percent of the
23 neighborhood said we don't want it here. And 70
24 percent of those folks that filled out a survey,
25 and it was a heft -- a lot of people that filled

1 it out said we strongly oppose it. Not just we
2 oppose it, we strongly oppose it. So stay tuned
3 for that. But there is the group on Facebook,
4 Kyla. And you can send email comments there for
5 sure.

6 KYLA THOMPSON: Now, is the July 1st
7 the one and -- is it a one and done appeal type
8 situation, or what did they say about that?

9 SUE BEECHER: So I understand on a
10 basic level. And somebody here that's worked for
11 the city might have more of an understanding. So
12 the hearing examiner, there were recommendations
13 from the zoning folks. Right? And so they said
14 we recommend -- because it's allowable. There's
15 no zoning for data centers in Indianapolis. So
16 it's an odd thing, right? So it's a variance,
17 not a rezone. And so whoever had -- the planner
18 had recommended that it be approved.

19 And some of the things were that DC
20 BLOX had answered all the questions evidently to
21 them. I mean, we don't have anything in writing
22 from them, which I think is why Councilor
23 Nielsen is opposed. We have no commitments in
24 writing from them. A lot of verbal, but that's
25 no good.

1 So then the hearing examiner listened
2 to that, listened to DC BLOX, and listened to the
3 remonstrators. And then she ruled. And she
4 ruled that she supported the planner's
5 recommendation for it to go through.

6 That then sends it on through the full
7 MDC for their approval. And I don't know that
8 there's appeal process after that. I think
9 that's it. But they'll run that hearing just
10 like they ran the hearing examiner hearing with
11 DC BLOX able to do some testimony and then
12 Councilor Nielsen.

13 Councilor Hart also testified. I was a
14 bit puzzled -- there's a term we use in
15 psychology called word salad. And that was kind
16 of how his testimony was. I couldn't tell what
17 all he thought about it. But one of the things
18 that DC BLOX has promised Warren Township is that
19 they will reopen the Y, that they will work with
20 Good Shepherd to reopen the YMCA. So that is
21 kind of -- Warren Township voted for it. I think
22 Councilor Hart is probably going to vote for it
23 in the end.

24 Andy is meeting with the elementary
25 school folks this week. They put out a statement

1 today that they don't want anything that would
2 harm their children. You know, to be near the
3 school, which I think is prudent.

4 So Councilor Nielsen, again, is doing
5 all of the coordinating of this and he'll keep
6 you apprised on his page. He has done a good job
7 of that on Facebook.

8 CAITLIN LUEBCKE: Did they say how they
9 were going to guarantee that the Y would get
10 reopened?

11 SUE BEECHER: Oh, Caitlin, there's
12 nothing in writing. There's -- no.

13 CAITLIN LUEBCKE: I assumed. I just --

14 SUE BEECHER: Yeah, no, no. That's --

15 CAITLIN LUEBCKE: If they're making
16 promises like that, one would hope that they have
17 some sort of plan in place.

18 SUE BEECHER: So when you look on DC
19 BLOX -- and we've met -- when I say we, Andy and
20 I have met with them a lot. Dawn has been
21 involved. They are very good at telling you
22 they'll do something and then it doesn't happen.

23 For example, we requested just three
24 things be added to their website. Okay? A
25 decommissioning plan. What happens when they

1 leave that site? How are they going to clean it
2 up?

3 The second thing was to clarify the
4 abatements. Because in Irvington they said we
5 don't need tax abatements. We're going to go
6 ahead in Warren. Not only did they say that they
7 didn't say what they said in Irvington, they then
8 said, oops, we made a mistake. Now, this is a
9 multibillion dollar company, so it's a little
10 hard to understand that that could happen.

11 And the third thing was I asked for
12 environmental studies. And I said you can choose
13 any you want. You just put some up there. And
14 they failed to do any of that. So I describe
15 their meetings with us as pretty much
16 performative.

17 CAITLIN LUEBCKE: And to clarify for
18 people listening, if they got tax abatements, it
19 would in fact decrease the revenue to the TIF
20 that the City touted to this neighborhood and the
21 surrounding neighborhoods as such a benefit to
22 all of us. Okay.

23 SUE BEECHER: Yeah. And when you look
24 at their giving on their webpage, the most that
25 they've pictured giving is \$3,500 to somebody, to

1 a food bank, which is something that I could do
2 on a fixed income, right? So there's no big
3 checks like you would expect for reopening the
4 YMCA in a building that's had deferred
5 maintenance for decades.

6 So they just haven't put anything in
7 writing for Irvington. And not really anything
8 for Warren Township, either.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1: And just one
10 other item to point out. It's easy to find.
11 There are a couple of news articles that speak
12 specifically to DC BLOX trying to put a data
13 center, the same distance that they want to put
14 one from the elementary school, next to a zoo in
15 Nashville, Tennessee. And Nashville is not
16 having it I think is the phrase that we need
17 right there.

18 DAWN BRIGGS: We are seeing moratoriums
19 all over the United States on these data centers.
20 Because we don't know. And unfortunately, we
21 won't know for many years. But everybody is
22 saying let's hold up and let's look a little
23 deeper into this. Except for Indianapolis. They
24 were smart. They filed early. They got all this
25 kind of in under the wire. They've got a big law

1 firm. And they're going to push through. And I
2 don't know how we can stop them.

3 And as far as the examiner, they met
4 all five findings. She is not just somebody that
5 arbitrarily went, no, I love them. I felt like
6 she was empathetic to us. But all five findings
7 were met. She can't go against the law. So she
8 wasn't -- people were yelling she was on the
9 take, and I just didn't feel that way.

10 SUE BEECHER: Not at all. So feel free
11 to reach out to Andy. But Andy will keep us
12 posted. Again, he's meeting with the grade
13 school because I think he felt a statement from
14 them was probably needed moving forward since
15 they are the most impacted with it being
16 literally I think 800 feet somebody said from the
17 school, which is just amazing. So stay tuned for
18 that.

19 On a happier note, Halloween Committee
20 update. Caitlin or Billy.

21 CAITLIN LUEBCKE: I can give -- Billy,
22 do you want to give a quick Vampire Run update?

23 BILLY PAYNE: Sure. First, I will plug
24 the Pleasant Run Run, happening on August 29th, a
25 5K, five-mile, and eight-mile run through North

1 Irvington, around the golf course and the park.
2 Registration is open for that with more info at
3 PleasantRunRun.com. And then registration is
4 also open for the Irvington Vampire Run, part of
5 the 80th festival this year. That will be
6 happening on the morning of October 31st, a 5K
7 through South Irvington that starts and finishes
8 at the South Circle. And then our Little Bat
9 Dash registration is also open as well. All that
10 at IrvingtonVampireRun.com.

11 CAITLIN LUEBCKE: And in regards to the
12 festival as a whole, yes, this is our 80th year.
13 We had our first full committee meeting earlier
14 this month.

15 As Billy said, the Vampire Run
16 registration is now open. Poster contest entry
17 is now open. And you can find all of the rules
18 and find a way to enter on our website at
19 IrvingtonHalloween.com.

20 Masquerade Ball tickets should be
21 opening at the end of the month. And it truly is
22 -- I think the plan is for it to be a masquerade
23 ball once again this year.

24 BILLY PAYNE: I had a meeting with them
25 this afternoon. And tickets will go on sale next

1 Wednesday, June 24th.

2 CAITLIN LUEBCKE: Perfect. Thank you.
3 The vendor application period is still open
4 through July 1st. So if you or someone you know
5 are interested in becoming a vendor, again,
6 IrvingtonHalloween.com.

7 Merchandise has been on sale. I think
8 we sold it at the farmer's market this past
9 weekend. And it should also be available at
10 Hampton Design. And as always, we are always,
11 always, always looking for sponsorships and for
12 volunteers. All right. To our lovely volunteer
13 director.

14 ALYSSA LAUER: My name is Alyssa Lauer.
15 I lead the volunteers for the Halloween Festival.
16 WE did do a call-out to see if folks were
17 interested in helping out with the Committee in
18 May. That turned out to beautifully. If anyone
19 was not able to attend but still would like to
20 know more information, please do let us know.
21 You can reach us on our website. There is a
22 volunteer email on there. And I'm happy to
23 coordinate extra time to talk to folks to see
24 what would be a good fit.

25 Right now our plan is to have our

1 online registration for volunteers open hopefully
2 in August. We'll announce it on our Facebook
3 page. We'll also try to do some more events to
4 help promote those shifts in case you've never
5 volunteered and you'd like to.

6 Because we have a pretty good time.
7 I'm not going to lie, guys. You get a free T-
8 shirt. If you're over 21, I make sure you get a
9 beer. And you don't have to drink it yourself.
10 You can give it away to somebody else if you want
11 to the day of the festival who is also 21. So
12 I'm just saying, we try to have a good time. We
13 make sure everyone (indiscernible). You see cute
14 kids in costumes, adorable dogs in their
15 costumes. Really those are the two highlights I
16 can give. I mean, come on. But you can also see
17 the morning of, which is crazy and delightful.

18 But keep posted on those Facebook
19 posts. If you're interested in more activities
20 or you want to get more involved, please do email
21 us and let us know. I think that's it. Thanks,
22 all.

23 SUE BEECHER: Thank you. Exciting
24 times, 80th Halloween celebration this year for
25 the festival.

1 I've listed a couple of events coming
2 up. These are events that the Council sponsors,
3 but they're also events people should attend.
4 Irvington Pride, that's on Saturday, June 27th
5 from 10:00 to 6:00. Council will not be selling
6 Halloween merch there, but we will be selling our
7 garden flags, which are really lovely. We sold
8 68 of those out of 100 on Sunday. So we've
9 ordered some more. And they've got the black cat
10 logo that you see on some of the banners on the
11 light poles. They are double-sided, fade
12 resistant, bright orange with the black cat. You
13 get a stand with those, a nice, sturdy stand.
14 And you also get a black rubber thingy that I was
15 throwing away, but that's actually to put on to
16 keep the flag from blowing off the stand. Yeah.
17 Yeah. Sue had to learn that. So we hope to see
18 you there.

19 And then also the Irvington Garden
20 Tour, the 26th Annual. And if you've never done
21 that before, it is such a wonderful time. A
22 beautiful Sunday afternoon. You can see gardens
23 of all types. And it's just a wonderful event
24 sponsored by the Irvington Garden Club.

25 Also on that day, as Dawn is pointing

1 out, how could I forget food, is the Strawberry
2 Festival at Irvington United Methodist Church.
3 Usually I'm working so I don't end up with the
4 strawberries. But it is so good. It's just
5 wonderful. So that weekend in Irvington is going
6 to be busy. Just plan to be out and about the
7 whole weekend. Which I love about Irvington.

8 MADISON MONFREDA: Open forum.

9 Hello.

10 SUE BEECHER: Hi.

11 MADISON MONFREDA: Can you hear me
12 okay? Yes? Okay. My name is Madison Monfreda.
13 I am on the Irvington Community Board, the school
14 board. And so we, as Sue mentioned, will be
15 meeting with Andy tomorrow to discuss what to be
16 done. And I know we received some pushback on
17 the statement we released. I just want to say we
18 are quickly learning things. So we were kind of
19 behind the eight-ball and now we're getting
20 quickly accustomed to the data center fight. I
21 just realized last week how close it actually is
22 to the elementary school.

23 DC BLOX has not reached out to the
24 school. I guess they dropped a postcard off at
25 the elementary school that said let me know if

1 you have any questions, and that was it. So we
2 are considering filing an appeal or speaking with
3 our attorney tomorrow to make sure that as a
4 board we have standing to do so. I have it
5 drafted. So if I could look at yours to see what
6 it looks like to make sure we're doing the right
7 thing.

8 Additionally, we will be having our
9 board meeting next Wednesday at the middle
10 school. So it would be really helpful if anyone
11 wants to come and show up and say, hey, we are
12 also against the data center. It will be 6:00
13 p.m. and it's at the middle school, which is at
14 the corner of Arlington and Pleasant Run. It's
15 right by the golf course.

16 I'm trying to think if there's anything
17 else. If you have questions about the board's
18 position or if there's anything that you
19 immediately need us to address, Board@ICS-
20 Charter.org is the email to reach all of us
21 quickly. Otherwise, you guys can come to me and
22 I'll give you my board email.

23 Any questions on that? Yes.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1: Can you repeat
25 the time and the date of that meeting at

1 Arlington Middle School?

2 MADISON MONFREDA: Yes. So it's
3 Irvington Community Middle School, Pleasant Run
4 and Arlington. It's that school right there.
5 You'll just park on Pleasant Run. It will be
6 6:00 p.m. It's Wednesday, June 24th. And it's
7 on our website. So if you leave this meeting and
8 forget, you can just look at ICS's website and it
9 will be on there as well.

10 Dawn, you had a question?

11 DAWN BRIGGS: So I wonder if we are
12 appealing, is there a benefit for you guys to
13 appeal, too? Did Andy or did you guys do appeal?

14 MADISON MONFREDA: Yeah.

15 DAWN BRIGGS: Yeah.

16 MADISON MONFREDA: And my day job is an
17 attorney. My idea is to -- thank you. My
18 thought is that -- in a past life I did HOA
19 stuff. The more you can bog down the
20 administrative side of it, the longer it takes.
21 And when I was looking through the withdrawal
22 process, it's pretty simple. So if it comes to a
23 head and Andy and this board and this school
24 decide we don't need our petition, we're fine
25 withdrawing it. But we want to make sure we put

1 as many roadblocks to them as we can. Yeah.

2 Yeah.

3 SUE BEECHER: And the reason -- and
4 this is going to sound odd. But the reason you
5 don't want to burn DC BLOX to the ground, right,
6 is if they come in, there will be a negotiation
7 process for how they should be good neighbors.
8 And that will involve donations to the community.
9 And I know that sounds horrible, but when you are
10 caught in these situations -- and I don't -- I
11 just don't envy Councilor Nielsen at all -- you
12 just have to try to fight to keep them out. But,
13 man, you don't want to burn that bridge
14 completely. Because if they're coming in, you
15 can probably negotiate some environmental
16 improvements, some -- you know, you have to have
17 a working relationship.

18 And these -- they've been lovely to
19 meet with. I've not believed a word they've said
20 when we've met, right? And they think I do
21 because, you know, I look like a little old lady.
22 And I really got after them on the misspeak on
23 the abatements. I said how does a multibillion
24 dollar company misspeak on abatements? You know,
25 I would have been fired. And the guy's like,

1 well, I wasn't fired. And is aid, I can see
2 that. But, you know, this -- how does this even
3 happen in the business world?

4 So they heard us testify. They have
5 already sent me an email that I haven't had the
6 heart to open. They sent it last Friday. I just
7 don't want to read it. But we just can't burn it
8 to the ground. We have to be respectful in our
9 pushing back on this. We want it gone. We don't
10 want it here. But we also have to be able to
11 have some communication if they land here.

12 MADISON MONFREDA: Absolutely.

13 SUE BEECHER: Megan, have you got
14 anything to add to that? We're going to get you
15 a microphone, Megan. I do want you to introduce
16 yourself. Your testimony was amazing.

17 MEGAN LAPA: Thank you, Sue. My name
18 is Megan. I did speak as one of the remonstrants
19 at the hearing. I live nearby, but I have not
20 been super-involved. So I am very grateful that
21 I was trusted at that microphone, because I know
22 I'm an unfamiliar face around here even though
23 I've been here since 2018. So thank you.

24 With that being said, there is a group
25 of people who are young and chomping at the bit

1 to do something about this. And part of what I'm
2 doing is gathering the information from different
3 entities across town to essentially make sure
4 we're on the same page. Young can be great and
5 powerful as long as it's directed. So we're
6 trying to help kind of direct where that goes as
7 an extension of louder community -- not
8 necessarily louder community voices, but
9 community voices that, you know, you all have
10 been doing this for a minute. And it's time for
11 people to step up.

12 So I am essentially here gathering
13 information, learning more about all of you,
14 introducing myself. And the Facebook page is the
15 best place to go to get information as far as
16 anything that might be going on, any needs that
17 we might have to activate the community more
18 broadly. You can go there. And if you are
19 interested in participating in those efforts, you
20 can message that page. And that's mostly
21 organized through Signal because that's
22 encrypted. And we know they've got plenty of
23 data centers to be watching us. So we kind of
24 take that somewhere that's a little bit more
25 secure for people who are more involved. Yes.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1: Can you repeat
2 the name of the page you are referring to?

3 MEGAN LAPA: No Irvington Data Center.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1: Is that on
5 Facebook?

6 MEGAN LAPA: It is on Facebook. Yes.
7 I will say we're -- I don't think it's officially
8 posted yet, but this Saturday we intend to have
9 like a community event. Super laid back, just to
10 keep attention on it. Because it's not over.
11 This still does need to go in front of the MDC.
12 We'll have cardboard and simple materials so that
13 people can make signs. Like, just come out to
14 the circle and make signs. And then at the very
15 end of it we're going to have a walk down to the
16 site. If you've been down there, there's not
17 much to see from ground level. But the idea is
18 that there is an effort to get the press involved
19 to essentially get a photo of a unified Irvington
20 carrying their signs to this place that we are
21 trying to protect over on that side of town.

22 We do have yard signs coming soon. We
23 intend to use them as a fundraiser to help with
24 legal fees. Because after the MDC, we are out of
25 options. The next thing we can do is appeal for

1 a legislative -- what is it called? A judicial
2 review where they essentially -- it would go to
3 the courts and a judge would open up the books
4 from both of these hearings and say did this
5 follow the judicial process, was the outcome
6 sensible based on the evidence that was
7 presented? So that would be the next step. And
8 that does require legal fees. So we're going to
9 use those yard signs as a fundraiser for that.

10 I believe it will start at 10:00 a.m.
11 I'll make sure I message both of you directly.
12 But it will also be on the Facebook page. And
13 you can disseminate that information as is
14 appropriate, as you deem appropriate. Any other
15 questions?

16 SUE BEECHER: Irving Circle Park is a
17 public space. They can do what they want to do
18 to recreate in that space if they're not raising
19 money.

20 MEGAN LAPA: It's not a fundraiser. We
21 don't have the signs.

22 SUE BEECHER: Exactly.

23 MEGAN LAPA: We won't be selling
24 nothing.

25 SUE BEECHER: I appreciate you, Megan.

1 And you're right. Dawn and I both were like, who
2 is this gal, right, when we were first being
3 introduced. And your testimony was so, so great.
4 Yeah. Amazing. Okay. Anything else for open
5 forum?

6 ROGER MONFREDA: I'm Roger Monfreda.
7 We've lived here since 2000. But I was just
8 wondering, have you reached out to any of the
9 other groups across the country that have opposed
10 -- you know, the community councils across the
11 country that have opposed and maybe discussed
12 tactics? Maybe there's something we're not doing
13 that we could use.

14 SUE BEECHER: So I have not. One of
15 the strategies with these folks, these companies,
16 is to come in quietly and under the radar. And
17 so you've still got people in Irvington saying we
18 didn't know there's a data center coming in
19 because it's been -- now, to their credit,
20 they've had a lot of Facebook advertisements. If
21 you're on Facebook, right? But not everybody
22 uses Facebook. My understanding is a lot of
23 folks use Instagram now and other things. They
24 did some door knocking. Supposedly they sent
25 postcards. I never got a postcard or anything

1 from them.

2 But no, we have not. And I'm not sure
3 where we would reach out. I know -- yeah, people
4 reach out to us.

5 DAWN BRIGGS: We've had several groups
6 reach out to us. The folks from Decatur, the
7 folks from Franklin that were successful. Megan,
8 who else has reached out to you? Yeah. Yeah. I
9 think one of the things we're seeing, Roger, is
10 cities are stopping. Cities are calling for
11 moratoriums. And our city isn't. It is open for
12 business without our approvals. No matter that
13 we don't approve. And I think that's the problem
14 we're facing, they don't need anything from us.
15 We have nothing to stand on other than we simply
16 don't want you and we believe it's bad for the
17 environment, for our children, for our utility
18 bills, for the aquifers. We have all of those
19 beliefs, but they don't need anything from us.

20 SUE BEECHER: Councilor Hart fought the
21 Decatur one because it was close to his home.
22 This one is right on the Irvington line, right?
23 It sits smack-dab. So he seems less voracious
24 about saying no. He wants to see numbers. He
25 wants to see numbers of money to be brought in.

1 I guess we want to see commitments that our
2 school kids are going to be safe at that
3 elementary school, that our utility bills will
4 not go up, that they are going to -- because, you
5 know, they tried to mansplain data to me when I
6 said we want a decommissioning plan. And they
7 said oh, Sue, data is never going to go away.
8 You don't understand. And I said if you get
9 offered \$2 billion for that site, you're going to
10 sell it, right? And they went, well...

11 And I said, so what are you going to do
12 to clean it up when you leave? Well, we're not
13 bringing anything in. Well, just not true.
14 There's going to be glycol in that water.
15 They're going to bring computers and they're
16 going to bring wiring in. You know, there will
17 be infrastructure with contaminants. And they
18 finally got it and said oh yeah, we'll do that.
19 And of course they haven't. It's nowhere to be
20 found on their website or in writing anywhere.

21 So I think we just have to keep after
22 them. And I think to Dawn's point, every state
23 has got different rules and regulations. Indiana
24 has the most lax data center rules in the United
25 States. So we're dealing with that. Then we've

1 got a city that seems supportive, a mayor that
2 seems very supportive for whatever reason. So
3 Decatur has been a lot of help.

4 Julie Goldsberry flew down. They
5 offered to fly Dawn and I down to Birmingham. We
6 said absolutely not. We're not going on your
7 private jet to go to down to Birmingham, or
8 whatever you want us to do. But the Warren
9 Township folks did. So for better or for worse,
10 right? But Julia asked for a rental car. She's
11 pretty gusty. And she drove around and picked
12 neighbors herself to talk to. And I'm not sure
13 where the data center is in Birmingham. But I
14 suspect it's in a lower-income area, which is
15 where they tend to put these in the South. And
16 so she got some really good feedback. They had
17 neighbors selected for her to talk to and she
18 said uh-uh. I'm going to do my own
19 investigation.

20 But again with the shiny, you know,
21 bright thing of we're going to reopen the Y, that
22 just kind of turned the tables for Warren, and
23 they voted for it. Kyla?

24 KYLA THOMPSON: And that's my question.
25 So is that the driving force between Michael-Paul

1 Hart backing the -- agreeing with them putting DC
2 BLOX there because he thinks that they're
3 actually going to reopen the YMCA?

4 SUE BEECHER: They think that the
5 economic gain is too great to turn down. And I
6 will admit, I turned them on to the Y idea. I
7 did. We were talking about big ticket items.
8 And I was just kind of tired of talking to them.
9 And I said, well, you know, the Y just closed.
10 We could use some after-school programs. Right?
11 Because they were touting giving computers to
12 children who live in impoverished areas. So back
13 to Warren Township, and next thing I knew,
14 they're going to reopen the Y. So it's my fault.

15 KYLA THOMPSON: No, it's not really
16 your fault. I think it's a good idea if that's
17 something they actually -- like you said, we need
18 to get along with everybody. It sounds like this
19 is a done deal. So if it is a done deal, then
20 everybody really should -- I understand that.
21 But with that, then that should be the big
22 beacon. Okay, you've said you would reopen the Y
23 and maintain the Y, and this is a community
24 effort and blah, blah, blah. Whatever they --
25 whatever we need to push for if that's the case.

1 I mean, if that is their sticking point on doing
2 nice things for the community, yeah. Okay.
3 Good.

4 DAWN BRIGGS: One of the things that I
5 will take umbrage with is in years gone by,
6 Warren Township has always left Irvington's
7 business to Irvington. And while this does sit
8 in Warren Township, it sets right on our
9 perimeter. We are most definitely impacted by it
10 more than anyone else. And for those of you who
11 know me know that on every zoning issue I say
12 those that are the most affected get the loudest
13 voices.

14 And I was extraordinary disappointed
15 that the Warren Township Development Association,
16 without even speaking to us, voted to support it
17 along with their counselor, who did a survey and
18 did not tell the results of those surveys. So
19 where is the results of those surveys and why did
20 people do it if you can't talk about the results?
21 Or are you just looking at bright, shiny things
22 like this? And putting our children at risk.

23 SUE BEECHER: So stay tuned. Andy has
24 been doing a great job on his page of letting
25 folks know. Say No to the Data Center has been a

1 great resource to the school meeting. I'll try
2 to make that one too, Maddie.

3 Anything else? Anything happy?
4 Anything good? All right. Okay. Motion to
5 adjourn? Oh, wait. I'm sorry. I didn't see
6 your hand, Kyla.

7 KYLA THOMPSON: You know, we are giving
8 \$500 to the Garden Club as we traditionally do
9 every year to support them. I think it's
10 probably a good thing now while we're all here
11 and have a quorum that we talk about also giving
12 the same amount maybe for the Benton House tour
13 and doing a \$500 gift to them as well for their
14 tour. And so I would make a motion that we do
15 that as well.

16 SUE BEECHER: Okay. Any discussion on
17 that motion? Apparently not. Kyla keeping me in
18 line. Okay. All in favor?

19 (Members respond.)

20 SUE BEECHER: Okay. Any opposed?
21 Okay. Motion carries. Thank you.

22 Anything else? Any hands I'm not
23 seeing? Okay. Everybody looks tired. Yeah.
24 Okay.

25 Motion to adjourn?

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: So moved.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: Seconded.

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Sonya Ledanski Hyde, certify that the
foregoing transcript is a true and accurate
record of the proceedings.



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Date: July 1, 2026

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1 16:9 23:24 28:1,4 38:16 100 21:8 10:00 21:5 29:10 10th 8:1,3,9 11501 38:14 11:00 4:13 120 2:14 120th 2:6 12151 38:9 13dc 1:12 14 7:17,18 18 11:1 18th 11:1 1:00 10:25 1st 6:9 10:24 11:15 12:6 19:4	3 3 37:2 3,500 15:25 300 38:13 31st 18:6 330 38:12 3500 4:12 4 4th 4:19 5 50 6:23 7:2,11 500 36:8,13 5k 17:25 18:6 6 68 21:8 7 70 11:23 7th 4:11 8 800 17:16 80th 18:5,12 20:24 83 11:22 a a.m. 4:13 29:10 abatements 15:4,5,18 25:23,24		
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application 19:3 appreciate 2:16 3:5,6 29:25 appreciative 3:2 apprised 14:6 appropriate 29:14,14 approval 3:9 6:7,9 13:7 approvals 31:12 approve 31:13 approved 12:18 aquifers 31:18 arbitrarily 17:5 area 7:22,25 33:14 areas 34:12 arlington 8:7 23:14 24:1,4 articles 16:11 arts 2:10,11 asked 15:11 33:10 asking 3:22 assembly 7:2 assigned 9:9,10 association 35:15	assume 5:17 assumed 14:13 attend 19:19 21:3 attention 2:18 28:10 attorney 10:21 23:3 24:17 audio 7:9 8:16 8:18 august 4:19 17:24 20:2 author 6:18 available 19:9 avenue 8:8 b back 4:22 7:12 8:21 9:3 11:6 26:9 28:9 34:12 backing 34:1 bad 31:16 ball 18:20,23 22:19 bank 16:1 banners 21:10 based 29:6 basic 12:10 bat 18:8 beacon 34:22 beautiful 21:22 beautifully 19:18	becoming 19:5 beecher 2:1 3:12 5:4 9:12 9:18,22 10:2,7 12:9 14:11,14 14:18 15:23 17:10 20:23 22:10 25:3 26:13 29:16,22 29:25 30:14 31:20 34:4 35:23 36:16,20 beer 20:9 beginning 3:20 behalf 4:8 beliefs 31:19 believe 7:14 9:18 29:10 31:16 believed 25:19 benefit 15:21 24:12 benton 36:12 best 27:15 better 5:6 6:14 33:9 big 16:2,25 34:7,21 billion 32:9 bills 31:18 32:3 billy 17:20,21 17:23 18:15,24 birmingham 33:5,7,13	bit 5:10 13:14 26:25 27:24 black 21:9,12 21:14 blah 34:24,24 34:24 blowing 21:16 blox 1:12 5:22 12:20 13:2,11 13:18 14:19 16:12 22:23 25:5 34:2 board 22:13,14 23:4,9,19,22 24:23 board's 23:17 bog 24:19 books 29:3 bottom 7:10 break 7:9 8:16 8:18 bridge 25:13 brief 3:19 briggs 16:18 24:11,15 31:5 35:4 bright 21:12 33:21 35:21 bring 7:11 32:15,16 bringing 32:13 broadly 27:18 brookside 4:12 4:12
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brought 31:25 bug 9:6 building 16:4 burn 25:5,13 26:7 business 26:3 31:12 35:7 busy 5:10 11:14 22:6	center 1:12 5:10,22,24,25 6:2 10:3 11:21 16:13 22:20 23:12 28:3 30:18 32:24 33:13 35:25 centers 12:15 16:19 27:23 certify 7:4 38:3 chad 3:5 chance 3:7 change 8:3 charter.org 23:20 checks 16:3 children 14:2 31:17 34:12 35:22 choir 2:12 chomping 26:25 choose 15:12 church 2:7,8 22:2 circle 18:8 28:14 29:16 cities 31:10,10 citizens 4:6 10:18 city 5:11 6:17 6:20 7:4,20 9:10 10:17 12:11 15:20	31:11 33:1 clarify 15:3,17 clean 15:1 32:12 clear 6:1 close 22:21 31:21 closed 4:7 8:19 34:9 club 21:24 36:8 come 20:16 23:11,21 25:6 28:13 30:16 comes 24:22 coming 3:15 4:3 21:1 25:14 28:22 30:18 comments 10:8 12:4 commerce 5:25 commission 6:8 commitments 12:23 32:1 committee 5:16 6:1 17:19 18:13 19:17 communication 26:11 community 2:13 4:10,10 4:15,16 6:3 8:5 10:12 22:13 24:3 25:8 27:7 27:8,9,17 28:9	30:10 34:23 35:2 companies 30:15 company 6:11 15:9 25:24 completed 7:24 8:13 completely 25:14 computers 32:15 34:11 congratulations 2:6 considering 23:2 construction 7:18,19 contaminants 32:17 contest 18:16 continue 6:9 7:13 contribute 2:9 2:10 coordinate 19:23 coordinating 14:5 copies 4:23 copy 10:20 corner 23:14 correct 9:11
c			
c 38:1,1 caitlin 14:8,11 14:13,15 15:17 17:20,21 18:11 19:2 call 19:16 called 10:3 13:15 29:1 calling 31:10 calls 8:23 campaign 9:25 car 33:10 cardboard 28:12 carries 36:21 carrying 28:20 case 20:4 34:25 cat 21:9,12 catch 4:25 caught 25:10 celebration 20:24			

costumes 20:14 20:15 council 3:7 5:12,15 6:3,16 6:18,20 10:12 21:2,5 councilor 10:11 11:17 12:22 13:12,13,22 14:4 25:11 31:20 councilors 9:10 councils 30:10 counselor 10:23 35:17 country 30:9 30:11 38:12 county 5:11 6:17,20 9:10 couple 7:21 16:11 21:1 course 18:1 23:15 32:19 courts 29:3 crazy 20:17 created 7:2 credit 30:19 crews 7:20 cute 20:13	data 5:10,22,24 6:2 10:3 11:21 12:15 16:12,19 22:20 23:12 27:23 28:3 30:18 32:5,7 32:24 33:13 35:25 date 23:25 38:16 dawn 2:18 10:4 14:20 16:18 21:25 24:10,11 24:15 30:1 31:5 33:5 35:4 dawn's 32:22 day 4:3,10,10 4:15 11:4 20:11 21:25 24:16 days 4:16 dc 5:22 12:19 13:2,11,18 14:18 16:12 22:23 25:5 34:1 dcb 1:12 deal 34:19,19 dealing 32:25 decades 16:5 decatur 31:6,21 33:3 decide 24:24	decision 10:14 decommissio... 14:25 32:6 decrease 15:19 deem 29:14 deeper 16:23 deferred 16:4 definitely 35:9 delightful 20:17 describe 15:14 design 19:10 deteriorate 7:14 developed 11:16 development 6:8 35:15 different 4:21 11:12 27:2 32:23 direct 27:6 directed 27:5 directly 29:11 director 19:13 disappointed 35:14 discuss 22:15 discussed 30:11 discussion 3:10 36:16 disseminate 29:13	distance 16:13 district 7:17,18 districts 4:16 dogs 20:14 doing 14:4 23:6 27:2,10 30:12 35:1,24 36:13 dollar 15:9 25:24 dollars 7:5 donations 25:8 door 30:24 dora 9:4 double 21:11 dpw 3:25 drafted 23:5 dreadful 7:25 drink 20:9 drive 4:12 driving 33:25 dropped 22:24 drove 33:11 due 4:9 dump 8:21
d			e
dab 31:23 dash 18:9			e 38:1 ear 9:6 earlier 18:13 early 16:24 easy 16:10 economic 34:5 effort 28:18 34:24

efforts 27:19	evening 3:17	20:2,18 27:14	18:17,18
eight 17:25	5:7,13,14,16	28:5,6 29:12	findings 17:4,6
22:19	event 21:23	30:20,21,22	fine 24:24
either 3:4 7:11	28:9	facing 31:14	finishes 18:7
16:8	events 20:3	fact 15:19	fired 25:25
elementary	21:1,2,3	fade 21:11	26:1
13:24 16:14	everybody 2:16	failed 15:14	firm 17:1
22:22,25 32:3	11:11,19 16:21	falls 8:14	first 3:15 10:10
eligible 7:4	30:21 34:18,20	far 4:4 9:11	17:23 18:13
email 5:2 8:24	36:23	17:3 27:15	30:2
10:21 12:4	evidence 29:6	farmer's 19:8	fit 19:24
19:22 20:20	evidently 12:20	fault 34:14,16	five 9:8 17:4,6
23:20,22 26:5	exactly 29:22	favor 3:10	17:25
emerson 7:23	examiner 6:6,6	36:18	fixed 16:2
8:1	12:12 13:1,10	feedback 33:16	flag 21:16
empathetic	17:3	feel 4:23 5:5	flags 21:7
17:6	examiner's	17:9,10	flew 33:4
encouragement	10:13	feeling 3:18	fly 33:5
10:12	example 14:23	fees 28:24 29:8	folks 2:2 3:7
encrypted	except 16:23	feet 17:16	11:24 12:13
27:22	exciting 8:22	felt 17:5,13	13:25 19:16,23
engaged 5:24	20:23	festival 18:5,12	30:15,23 31:6
enter 18:18	exit 8:12	19:15 20:11,25	31:7 33:9
entirely 7:5	expect 16:3	22:2	35:25
entities 27:3	extension 27:7	fight 22:20	follow 29:5
entry 18:16	extra 19:23	25:12	following 5:8
environment	extraordinary	filed 10:13,19	food 2:9 16:1
31:17	35:14	16:24	22:1
environmental	f	filing 23:2	force 4:9 33:25
15:12 25:15	f 38:1	filled 11:24,25	foregoing 38:4
envy 25:11	face 26:22	final 6:8	forget 22:1
essentially 27:3	facebook 5:9	finally 32:18	24:8
27:12 28:19	10:3 12:3 14:7	find 2:2 9:19	form 10:15
29:2		10:16 16:10	

forum 22:8 30:5 forward 17:14 fought 31:20 found 10:15 32:20 four 9:9 fourth 4:3,7 francine 9:5 franklin 31:7 free 4:13,23 17:10 20:7 friday 3:24 26:6 front 6:5 8:1 28:11 frustrated 11:9 full 2:4 13:6 18:13 fun 4:14 funding 6:21 6:23 7:3 fundraiser 28:23 29:9,20 future 7:6,10	general 7:2 generate 6:22 getting 8:23 22:19 gift 36:13 give 9:4 17:21 17:22 20:10,16 23:22 giving 15:24,25 34:11 36:7,11 glad 8:15 9:2 glycol 32:14 go 5:17 6:12 13:5 15:5 17:7 18:25 27:15,18 28:11 29:2 32:4,7 33:7 goes 6:7 27:6 going 3:19 4:11 13:22 14:9 15:1,5 17:1 20:7 22:5 25:4 26:14 27:16 28:15 29:8 32:2,4,7,9,11 32:14,15,16 33:6,18,21 34:3,14 goldsberry 33:4 golf 18:1 23:15 good 2:22 3:16 4:15 5:13 10:18 12:25	13:20 14:6,21 19:24 20:6,12 22:4 25:7 33:16 34:16 35:3 36:4,10 government 9:19,21 grade 17:12 grateful 26:20 great 2:3,5,12 3:9 27:4 30:3 34:5 35:24 36:1 greatest 3:18 greene's 8:1 ground 25:5 26:8 28:17 group 10:2 12:3 26:24 groups 30:9 31:5 guarantee 14:9 guess 22:24 32:1 gusty 33:11 guy's 25:25 guys 9:11 20:7 23:21 24:12,13	hampton 19:10 hand 36:6 handouts 5:2 hands 36:22 happen 14:22 15:10 26:3 happening 17:24 18:6 happens 14:25 happier 17:19 happy 19:22 36:3 hard 11:2,3 15:10 harm 14:2 hart 13:13,22 31:20 34:1 he'll 9:1 14:5 head 24:23 header 1:12 hear 2:11 22:11 heard 5:25 8:14 26:4 hearing 6:6,6 10:10,13,25,25 11:1 12:12 13:1,9,10,10 26:19 hearings 29:4 heart 26:6 heft 11:25 heights 8:5 hello 22:9
g			
gain 34:5 gal 30:2 garden 21:7,19 21:24 36:8 gardens 21:22 gathering 27:2 27:12			
		h	
		hallelujah 7:24 halloween 17:19 19:15 20:24 21:6	

help 20:4 27:6 28:23 33:3 helpful 23:10 helping 19:17 hesitate 5:19 8:25 hey 23:11 hi 11:6,7 22:10 highlights 20:15 hoa 24:18 hold 16:22 holiday 3:25 home 31:21 hope 5:5 14:16 21:17 hopefully 2:2 7:17 8:25 20:1 hoping 3:22 horrible 25:9 house 36:12 hyde 38:3	impd 3:14 4:8 important 8:2 impoverished 34:12 improvements 7:16,18 25:16 incentives 6:13 including 7:25 income 16:2 33:14 indiana 7:2 32:23 indianapolis 1:13 6:20,24 7:3,12 12:15 16:23 indiscernible 7:7 8:12,14,15 20:13 indulge 2:24 info 18:2 information 4:20 19:20 27:2,13,15 29:13 informed 11:18 infrastructure 5:15 6:17,20 7:16 32:17 inside 2:25 instagram 30:23 intend 28:8,23	interested 19:5 19:17 20:19 27:19 introduce 26:15 introduced 30:3 introducing 27:14 investigation 33:19 investment 7:1 involve 25:8 involved 14:21 20:20 26:20 27:25 28:18 irving 29:16 irvington 2:7 15:4,7 16:7 18:1,4,7 21:4 21:19,24 22:2 22:5,7,13 24:3 28:3,19 30:17 31:22 35:7 irvington's 35:6 irvingtonhall... 18:19 19:6 irvingtonvam... 18:10 issue 35:11 issues 10:1 11:2 item 16:10	items 34:7 j jet 33:7 job 14:6 24:16 35:24 john 2:6 jordan 2:21,24 3:2,5,6,13 judge 29:3 judicial 29:1,5 julia 33:10 julie 33:4 july 4:3,7,9,11 6:9 10:24 11:15 12:6 19:4 38:16 june 3:21 19:1 21:4 24:6 juneteenth 3:24 k keep 11:17 14:5 17:11 20:18 21:16 25:12 28:10 32:21 keeping 36:17 kids 20:14 32:2 kind 13:15,21 16:25 22:18 27:6,23 33:22 34:8 kinds 8:23
i ican 2:9 ics 23:19 ics's 24:8 idea 24:17 28:17 34:6,16 immediately 23:19 impacted 17:15 35:9			

knew 34:13 knocking 30:24 know 3:18,21 4:5,5 5:9 8:22 9:11 11:11,14 11:19 13:7 14:2 16:20,21 17:2 19:4,20 19:20 20:21 22:16,25 25:9 25:16,21,24 26:2,21 27:9 27:22 30:10,18 31:3 32:5,16 33:20 34:9 35:11,11,25 36:7 kyla 9:8,14,20 9:24 10:5 12:4 12:6 33:23,24 34:15 36:6,7 36:17	lead 6:18 19:15 leadership 6:4 6:11 learn 21:17 learning 22:18 27:13 leave 7:12 11:8 15:1 24:7 32:12 ledanski 38:3 left 35:6 legal 28:24 29:8 38:11 legislative 29:1 letter 9:25 letting 35:24 level 12:10 28:17 lie 20:7 life 24:18 light 21:11 line 1:12 7:11 31:22 36:18 listed 10:7 21:1 listened 13:1,2 13:2 listening 15:18 literally 17:16 little 15:9 16:22 18:8 25:21 27:24 live 26:19 34:12	lived 30:7 liz 2:20 llc 1:13 local 6:22 7:4 logo 21:10 long 6:21 27:5 longer 24:20 look 3:7 14:18 15:23 16:22 23:5 24:8 25:21 looked 9:22 looking 19:11 24:21 35:21 looks 23:6 36:23 lose 7:5 lot 2:3,21 8:23 11:25 12:24 14:20 30:20,22 33:3 loud 5:25 louder 27:7,8 loudest 35:12 love 17:5 22:7 lovely 19:12 21:7 25:18 lower 33:14 lrs 3:25 luebcke 14:8,13 14:15 15:17 17:21 18:11 19:2	m maddie 36:2 made 7:7 8:21 15:8 madison 22:8 22:11,12 24:2 24:14,16 26:12 mailed 10:20 10:20 main 11:22 maintain 34:23 maintenance 16:5 make 11:20 20:8,13 23:3,6 24:25 27:3 28:13,14 29:11 36:2,14 making 14:15 man 25:13 mansplain 32:5 marcus 11:7 market 19:8 masquerade 18:20,22 match 7:4,7,11 matching 6:22 materials 28:12 matter 31:12 mayor 9:9 33:1 mdc 9:15,17 13:7 28:11,24
I			
lady 25:21 laid 28:9 land 26:11 lapa 26:17 28:3 28:6 29:20,23 late 5:17 lauer 19:14,14 law 16:25 17:7 lax 32:24			

mean 12:21 20:16 35:1 means 2:4 media 6:10 meet 7:11 25:19 meeting 2:23 3:3 4:9,24 5:17 13:24 17:12 18:13,24 22:15 23:9,25 24:7 36:1 meetings 15:15 megan 11:6,6 26:13,15,17,18 28:3,6 29:20 29:23,25 31:7 members 3:11 9:17 10:1 36:19 mentioned 22:14 merch 21:6 merchandise 19:7 message 27:20 29:11 met 14:19,20 17:3,7 25:20 methodist 22:2 metropolitan 6:8 michael 33:25	microphone 26:15,21 middle 8:12 23:9,13 24:1,3 mile 17:25,25 million 6:23 7:2 7:12 mind's 9:5 minds 8:21 mineola 38:14 minute 27:10 minutes 3:2,4,7 misspeak 25:22 25:24 mistake 15:8 mitthoefer 8:9 money 7:13 29:19 31:25 monfreda 22:8 22:11,12 24:2 24:14,16 26:12 30:6,6 month 3:20 8:13 9:1,6 18:14,21 moratoriums 16:18 31:11 morning 18:6 20:17 motion 3:9 36:4 36:14,17,21,25 move 6:24 moved 37:1	moving 17:14 multibillion 15:9 25:23 multiple 4:23 n n 38:1 name 3:17 19:14 22:12 26:17 28:2 names 9:16 nashville 16:15 16:15 national 4:19 near 14:2 nearby 26:19 necessarily 27:8 need 9:3 15:5 16:16 23:19 24:24 28:11 31:14,19 34:17 34:25 needed 6:22 11:20 17:14 needing 2:18 needs 27:16 negotiate 25:15 negotiation 25:6 neighborhood 6:11,25 11:23 15:20	neighborhoods 15:21 neighbors 5:13 5:23 6:4 7:15 25:7 33:12,17 never 20:4 21:20 30:25 32:7 new 7:7 newly 6:19 news 16:11 newsletter 3:21 6:10 nice 21:13 35:2 nielsen 10:23 11:17 12:23 13:12 14:4 25:11 nielsen's 10:12 night 4:19 nine 9:16 normal 4:4 north 17:25 note 6:11 8:2 17:19 notebook 2:22 notified 10:21 number 8:24 numbers 31:24 31:25 ny 38:14
---	---	---	--

o	opposed 3:12 6:13 12:23 30:9,11 36:20	paul 33:25	planner 12:17
o 38:1	options 28:25	payne 17:23 18:24	planner's 13:4
october 18:6	orange 21:12	people 2:12 3:22 9:9,9 10:10 11:3,3,5 11:7,9,10,25 15:18 17:8 21:3 26:25 27:11,25 28:13 30:17 31:3 35:20	pleasant 17:24 23:14 24:3,5
odd 12:16 25:4	ordered 21:9		pleasantrunru... 18:3
offered 32:9 33:5	organized 27:21	percent 11:22 11:24	please 5:18 19:20 20:20
officially 28:7	outcome 29:5	perfect 19:2	pleased 7:21
oh 14:11 32:7 32:18 36:5	owe 7:14	performative 15:16	plenty 27:22
okay 2:1,15,17 2:21,22 3:6,9 3:10,12 5:5,6 9:24 14:24 15:22 22:12,12 30:4 34:22 35:2 36:4,16 36:18,20,21,23 36:24	own 2:11 33:18	perimeter 35:9	plug 17:23
	p	period 19:3	point 11:22 16:10 32:22 35:1
	p.m. 4:13 23:13 24:6	petition 24:24	pointing 21:25
	packets 4:17	petitions 6:5	points 11:20
	page 9:19,20,21 10:9 14:6 20:3 27:4,14,20 28:2 29:12 35:24	phone 8:24	poles 21:11
	pantries 2:10	photo 28:19	policy 5:16
	park 4:12 18:1 24:5 29:16	phrase 16:16	position 23:18
	parking 2:3,3 2:21	picked 33:11	post 8:9
	parkway 4:12	pictured 15:25	postcard 22:24 30:25
	part 6:19 18:4 27:1	place 14:17 27:15 28:20	postcards 30:25
	participating 27:19	plan 5:15 6:17 6:21 14:17,25 18:22 19:25 22:6 32:6	posted 17:12 20:18 28:8
	past 19:8 24:18	planned 6:25	poster 18:16
	patching 6:25 7:20 8:2,7,10		posts 20:19
			pothole 6:24
			powerful 27:5
			practicing 2:12
			presbyterian 2:7

presented 29:7 presenting 5:15 press 28:18 pretty 15:15 20:6 24:22 33:11 pride 21:4 private 33:7 privilege 5:21 probably 5:9 11:4 13:22 17:14 25:15 36:10 problem 3:1 31:13 proceedings 38:5 process 6:12 13:8 24:22 25:7 29:5 program 2:11 programs 34:10 project 8:5 projects 7:10 promised 13:18 promises 14:16 promote 20:4 proposal 6:21 proposed 5:10 5:24 protect 28:21 protest 11:12	proud 6:18 providing 5:18 prudent 14:3 psychology 13:15 public 4:14 5:16 29:17 pull 11:11 pulled 2:22 11:13 push 17:1 34:25 pushback 22:16 pushing 26:9 put 3:6 9:6 13:25 15:13 16:6,12,13 21:15 24:25 33:15 putting 34:1 35:22 puzzled 13:14	quickly 22:18 22:20 23:21 quietly 30:16 quorum 2:20 36:11	recommenda... 13:5 recommenda... 12:12 recommended 6:7 12:18 record 38:5 recreate 29:18 redesign 8:4 referring 28:2 regarding 10:1 regards 6:16 18:11 registration 18:2,3,9,16 20:1 regulations 32:23 relationship 25:17 released 3:21 22:17 remonstrants 26:18 remonstrators 13:3 rental 33:10 reopen 13:19 13:20 33:21 34:3,14,22 reopened 14:10 reopening 16:3 repair 8:7
	q question 24:10 33:24 questions 3:22 4:25 5:5,20 8:17 9:1 12:20 23:1,17,23 29:15 quick 17:22	r r 38:1 radar 30:16 raising 29:18 ran 13:10 rather 11:12 reach 5:19 10:16 17:11 19:21 23:20 31:3,4,6 reached 5:23 22:23 30:8 31:8 reactive 6:24 read 8:20 26:7 real 6:25 7:1 realized 22:21 really 2:8,12 4:14 16:7 20:15 21:7 23:10 25:22 33:16 34:15,20 reason 25:3,4 33:2 received 22:16 recommend 12:14	

repeat 23:24 28:1 requested 14:23 require 29:8 resistant 21:12 resource 36:1 resources 4:21 respectful 26:8 respond 3:11 36:19 responsive 8:25 rest 4:24 result 8:4 results 35:18 35:19,20 revenue 6:22 15:19 review 3:8 29:2 rezone 12:17 right 2:15,19 9:7 10:4 11:9 12:13,16 16:2 16:17 19:12,25 23:6,15 24:4 25:5,20 30:1,2 30:21 31:22,22 32:10 33:10 34:10 35:8 36:4 risk 35:22 road 6:23 8:9,9 8:19 38:12	roadblocks 25:1 roads 7:13 roger 30:6,6 31:9 room 11:13 rubber 21:14 ruled 13:3,4 rules 5:16 18:17 32:23,24 run 13:9 17:22 17:24,24,25 18:4,15 23:14 24:3,5 s safe 32:2 salad 13:15 sale 18:25 19:7 saturday 4:1,5 21:4 28:8 saw 10:6 saying 16:22 20:12 30:17 31:24 schedule 11:14 scheduled 4:2 8:10 school 8:13 13:25 14:3 16:14 17:13,17 22:13,22,24,25 23:10,13 24:1 24:3,4,23 32:2	32:3 34:10 36:1 season 7:19 8:11 second 15:3 seconded 37:2 secure 27:25 see 2:3,14,15 3:14 10:5 19:16,23 20:13 20:16 21:10,17 21:22 23:5 26:1 28:17 31:24,25 32:1 36:5 seeing 16:18 31:9 36:23 seems 31:23 33:1,2 seen 7:17 11:15 selected 33:17 sell 32:10 selling 21:5,6 29:23 send 10:8 12:4 sends 13:6 sense 6:14 sensible 29:6 sent 5:8 26:5,6 30:24 separate 6:12 serve 5:21 service 4:4 10:18	serviced 4:1,1 sets 35:8 several 5:11 31:5 shadeland 7:24 share 6:9,14 7:21 shepherd 13:20 shifts 20:4 shiny 33:20 35:21 shirt 20:8 short 2:23 show 23:11 si 8:1 side 24:20 28:21 sided 21:11 sign 8:19 signal 27:21 signature 38:9 signs 28:13,14 28:20,22 29:9 29:21 simple 24:22 28:12 simply 31:15 sit 35:7 site 15:1 28:16 32:9 sits 31:23 situation 12:8 situations 25:10
--	--	--	---

slide 4:2 smack 31:23 smart 16:24 social 6:10 sold 19:8 21:7 solutions 38:11 somebody 2:15 10:17 12:10 15:25 17:4,16 20:10 sonya 38:3 soon 28:22 sorry 36:5 sort 14:17 sound 25:4 sounds 25:9 34:18 south 18:7,8 33:15 space 29:17,18 speak 16:11 26:18 speaker 16:9 23:24 28:1,4 37:1,2 speaking 23:2 35:16 spearheading 10:24 specific 7:21 specifically 16:12 sponsored 21:24	sponsors 21:2 sponsorships 19:11 stand 21:13,13 21:16 31:15 standing 23:4 starks 3:16 start 29:10 started 2:2 starts 18:7 state 6:23 32:22 statement 13:25 17:13 22:17 states 16:19 32:25 station 4:6 stay 11:12 12:2 17:17 35:23 step 27:11 29:7 sticking 35:1 stop 6:3 17:2 stopping 31:10 strategies 30:15 strategy 11:18 11:19 strawberries 22:4 strawberry 22:1 street 7:23 8:3 8:8,8,9	strip 7:19 8:2 8:10 strongly 12:1,2 studies 15:12 stuff 24:19 sturdy 21:13 successful 31:7 sue 10:2,7 12:9 14:11,14,18 15:23 17:10 20:23 21:17 22:10,14 25:3 26:13,17 29:16 29:22,25 30:14 31:20 32:7 34:4 35:23 36:16,20 suite 38:13 sunday 21:8,22 super 4:14,14 26:20 28:9 support 5:20 35:16 36:9 supported 13:4 supportive 33:1,2 supposedly 30:24 sure 11:15 12:5 17:23 20:8,13 23:3,6 24:25 27:3 29:11 31:2 33:12	surrounding 15:21 survey 11:24 35:17 surveys 35:18 35:19 susan 2:1 3:12 5:4 9:12,18,22 suspect 33:14 sydney 3:14,16 3:17 5:4,5
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			t 20:7 38:1,1 table 4:22 7:13 tables 33:22 tactical 8:5 tactics 30:12 take 4:22,23 9:2 17:9 27:24 35:5 takes 24:20 talk 11:13 19:23 33:12,17 35:20 36:11 talking 34:7,8 task 4:9 tax 6:13 15:5 15:18 team 6:19 technically 8:14 tell 13:16 35:18

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Link to Irvington Community Council 6/16 Meeting

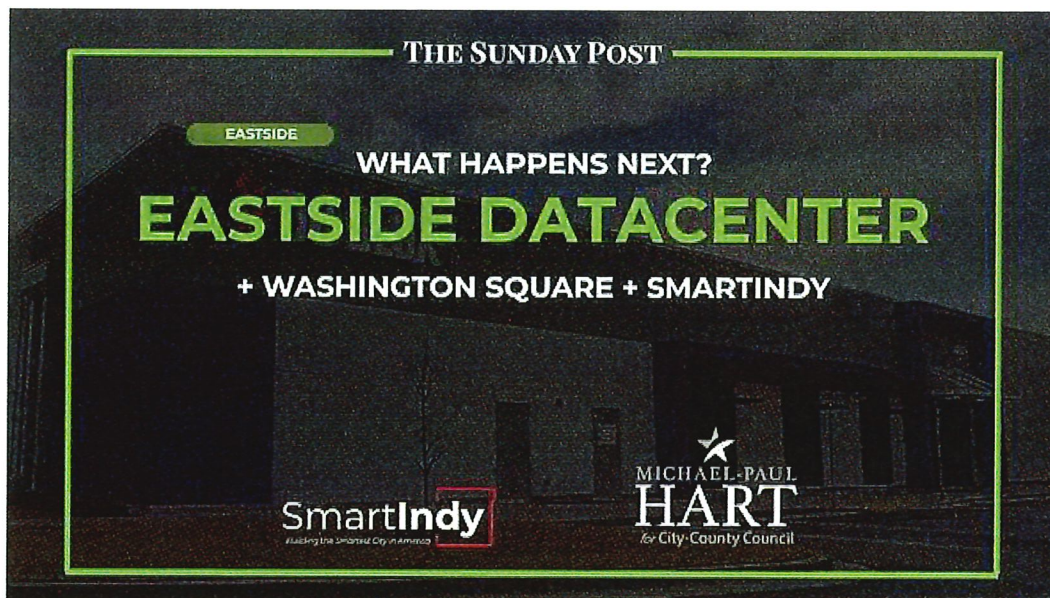
https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=2499083573869589

Michael-Paul Hart · Apr 12 · 5 min read

The Sunday Post - April 12, 2026: SmartIndy Organizing, Washington Square Input, and Early Questions at Thunderbird Data Center Project

*A weekly report from Councilor Michael-Paul Hart — Building the Smartest City in America.
Volume 2, Issue 15*

THE SUNDAY POST



UPDATE ON INDY

This week's work shaping the Smartest City in America

SmartIndy in Action: Lawrence Township, Gleaners, and What Comes Next

This was a strong week for SmartIndy.

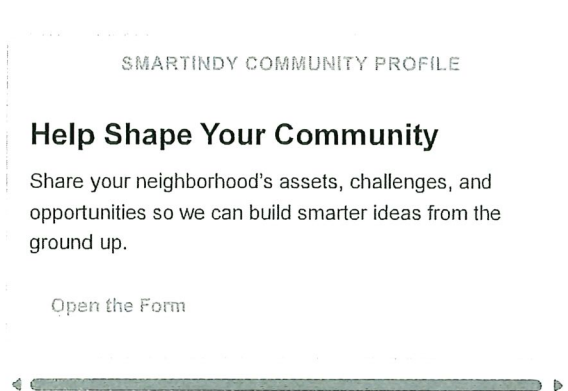
We started with another community engagement meeting in Lawrence Township. These meetings are about more than conversation. They are about helping people understand how local government works, what tools are available to them, and how they can become more effective voices in their own neighborhoods.

One of the biggest challenges I see as a councilor is not a lack of caring. It is a lack of access to information. Too many residents want to help improve their communities but do not know where to start, who to contact, or how to turn an idea into action.



That is exactly what SmartIndy is working to change.

Our goal is to build a stronger network of engaged residents across Indianapolis, people who are informed, connected, and ready to help shape better policy from the ground up. That is how we create a city that is not only more responsive, but smarter.



Indianapolis residents.

At this meeting, we continued work around our community profile effort. If you have not seen that yet, I encourage you to take a look and fill it out. It is designed to help residents identify the strengths, challenges, and opportunities in the places where they live. Over time, this can become a powerful tool for organizing communities and bringing forward ideas that truly reflect the voices of

SmartIndy also spent time volunteering at Gleaners this week, and I am grateful for everyone showed up to serve. Food banks are one of the clearest examples of neighbors helping neighbors. The work was simple, meaningful, and worth doing. A few hours of time can make a real difference for families across our city.

If you have never volunteered at Gleaners, I would encourage you to do it.

And next up, SmartIndy will be participating in the Warren Township cleanup on the 18th. I would love for you to join me for a couple of hours that Saturday. I am asking people to join me on Bus B as we work to clean up the area around Washington Square Mall. Small acts of service matter, and visible improvement still matters in the effort to build stronger communities.

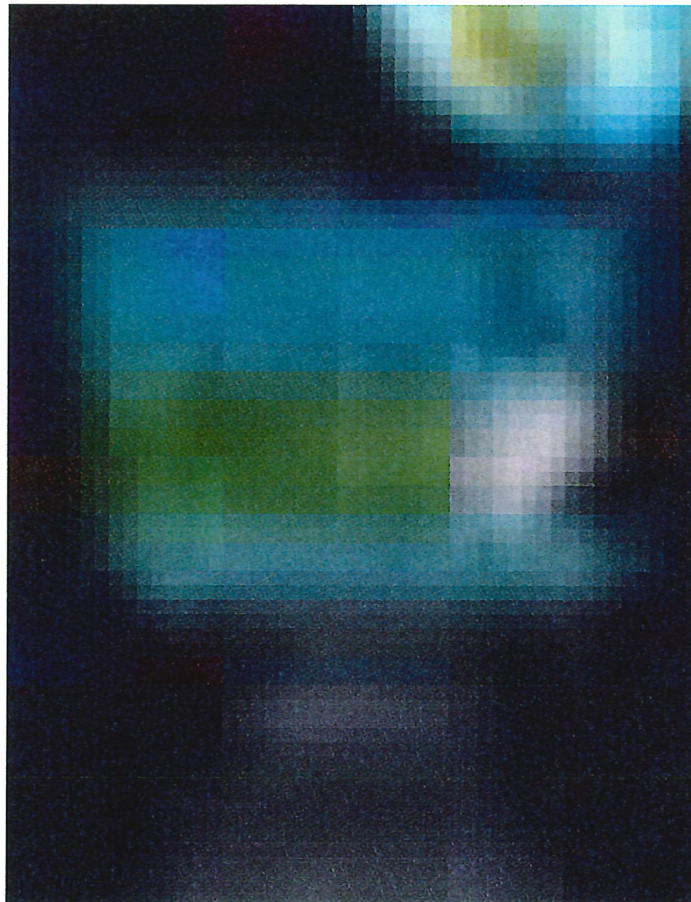


SMARTINDY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Join Me for the Warren Cleanup (BUS B)

Spend a couple of hours helping clean up the area around Washington Square Mall. Sign up and serve with us.

[Sign Up Here](#)



Washington Square Mall: First of Three Engagements

This week, we held the first of three planned engagement sessions connected to the future vision for Washington Square Mall.



As a reminder, Schmidt Associates is helping build a tangible site vision for what this property could become. That matters because for too long, people have talked about Washington Square in

broad terms without giving the community something real to react to. This process is intended to change that.

The first session focused on business owners and current tenants.

That was important. If we are serious about building a future for this site, we need to hear directly from the people operating there today. Their perspective matters, not only because they understand the current challenges, but because they also hear directly from customers about what the community wants and what the site is missing.

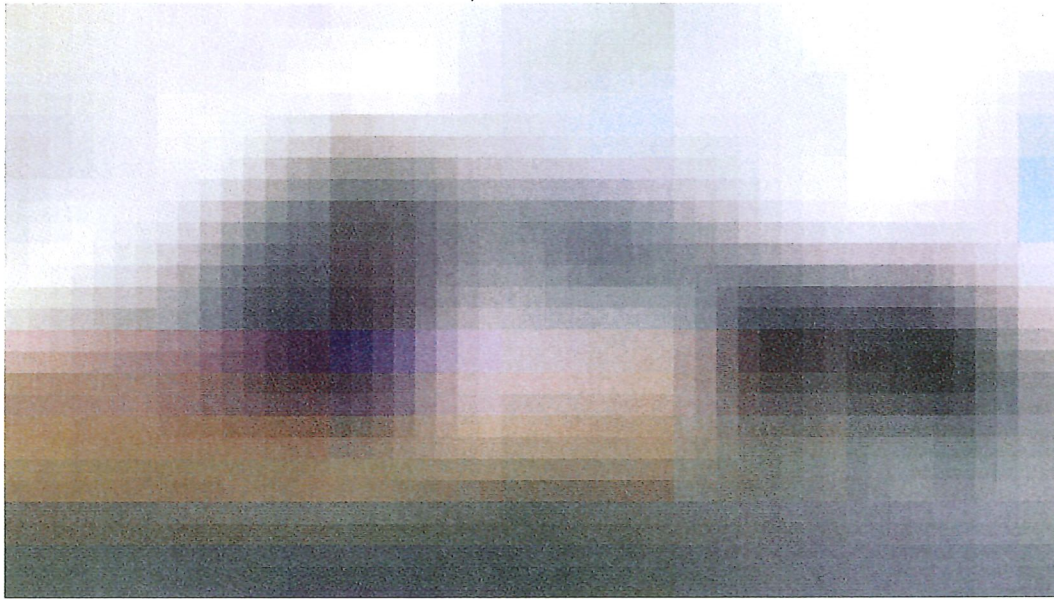
The conversation was not just about the mall's current problems. We also asked forward-looking questions. If the property were reconfigured, what would need to change? If a new ownership group came in and improvements were made, what would tenants be willing to support? What types of businesses, services, and experiences does the community say it wants to see? These are the kinds of questions that help shape a vision that is grounded in reality and connected to neighborhood needs.

We also provided an online option for those who could not attend in person so their input could still be included.

Over the next few weeks, we will continue this engagement process. The next public-facing meeting is being planned for April 27, and the goal is to make that session open to the broader community. More details on the location will be shared soon, but for now I would encourage you to mark your calendar.



Thunderbird District Data Center Proposal: Early Process, Real Questions, and a Professional Approach



This is the issue many people are watching most closely right now, and it is important to start with a clear point:

This proposal is different from the Google data center situation District 20 dealt with in 2025. The biggest difference is procedural.

This is not a rezoning case. It is a use variance request. Because Indianapolis development standards do not currently list data centers as an allowed use in this zoning category, the petitioner must go before the Metropolitan Development Commission to request permission for that use.

That matters because the process is different, and so is the role of the City-County Council. In a rezoning case, a councilor has different authority, including the ability to bring the matter before the full Council. In this case, that does not apply in the same way. The final decision rests with the Metropolitan Development Commission, not the full City-County Council.

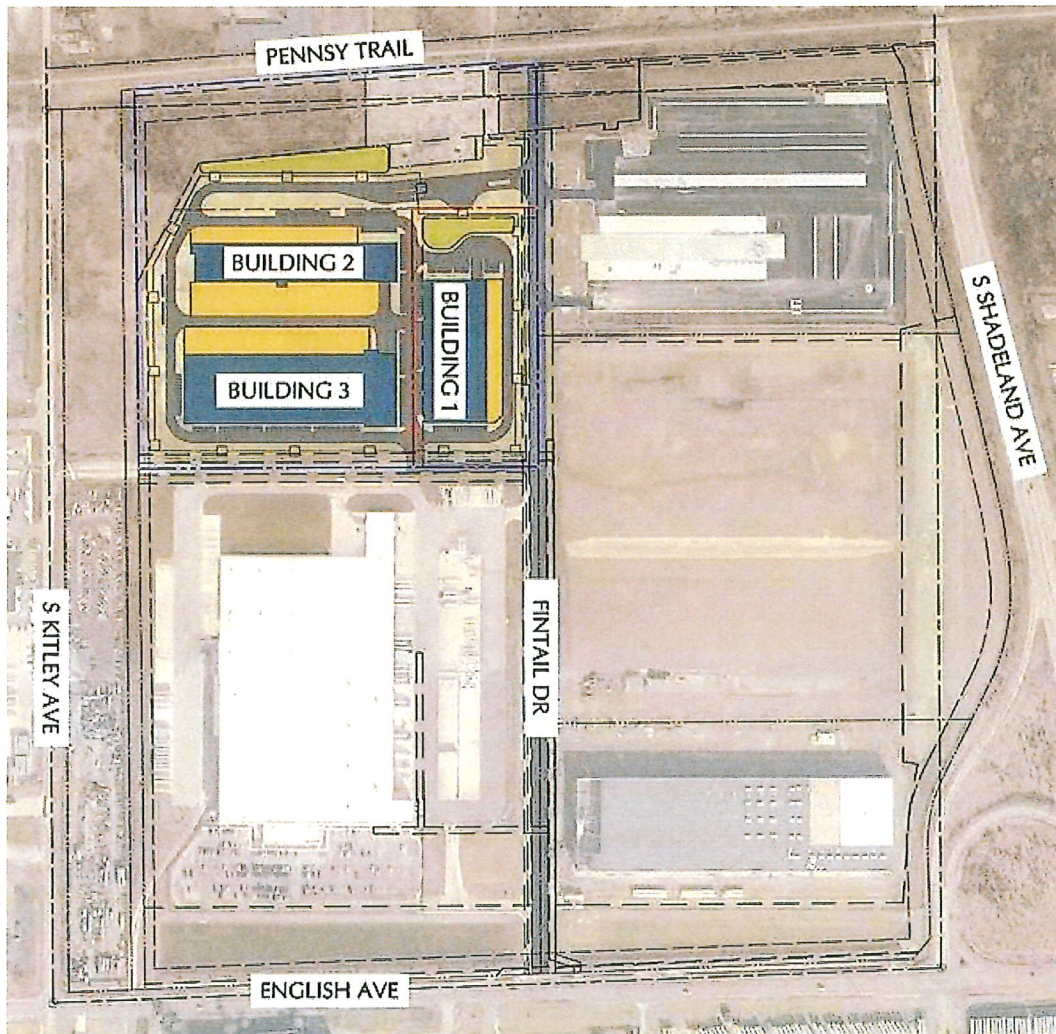
So where does that leave us?

It means we are early in the process, there is still a great deal to learn, and the most important thing the public can do right now is stay engaged, ask thoughtful questions, and provide constructive feedback about impacts and possible protections.

That is the posture I am taking.

I do not think this is the moment for people to rush to conclusions, either for or against. I think this is the moment to gather facts, understand the process, and make sure the community's concerns are taken seriously and professionally.

It is also important to understand the context of the site itself.



This is part of the Thunderbird District, an area with a very specific redevelopment history. The site was formerly tied to heavy industrial use, including the legacy of the old Ford plant. Because of the environmental sensitivity of that land and the surrounding industrial character, development options there have long been more limited than on a typical site.

That broader context matters.

It is also worth noting that when Lauth Group approached the city and local leadership about redevelopment of this area, a TIF district was established, and the growth in property tax value from that site has been tied to support redevelopment at Irvington Plaza. That is not something most people will see in a headline, but it is part of the broader picture residents deserve to understand.

As for the proposal itself, this is not being described as a hyperscale project like Google. The first building is being discussed at roughly 80,000 square feet, which is far smaller than the type of facility many residents may be imagining. It also would not be the first data center in or around District 20.

Still, size alone does not settle the issue.

Details from the Petitioner:



www.dcblox.com

Indianapolis Project

Tell Us What You Think DC BLOX Thunderbird Data Center in Indianapolis About the Project DC BLOX is p...

The real questions are about impact, compatibility, infrastructure, buffering, traffic, utilities, long-term community value, and whether commitments can be secured that reflect both responsible development and neighborhood concerns.

That is why I am encouraging residents to stay involved, bring questions, and remain professional throughout the process. The earlier the community engages, the better chance we have of influencing the conversation in a serious and constructive way.

NEXT OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE:



305 FINTAIL DRIVE DATA CENTER PROJECT

Irvington Community Council Monthly Meeting



Tuesday, April 21 at 7PM

Irvington Presbyterian Church
55 Johnson Ave, Indianapolis IN



MICHAEL-PAUL

for City-County Council

Michael-Paul Hart

Indianapolis City-County
Councilor District 20

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Thank you for reading Indianapolis City Council Updates and for supporting common-sense leadership. Together, and with the community driving accountability, we are turning bold ideas into real-world results.



Accountability, Transparency and Local Leadership

*See you next week with more updates from the
Neighborhood.*

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SmartIndy
Building the Smartest City in America

All Posts



Michael-Paul Hart
Apr 19 · 5 min read

The Sunday Post - April 19, 2026: Datacenter Questions, Washington Square, and a Major OPHS Wake-Up Call

*A weekly report from Councilor Michael-Paul Hart — Building the Smartest City in America.
Volume 2, Issue 16*

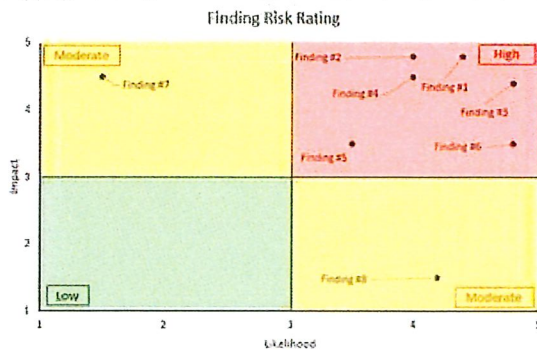
THE SUNDAY POST



 **UPDATE ON INDY**
This week's work shaping the Smartest City in America

A Major Audit Raises Major Questions

This week, one of the most important documents I pushed for was the new audit of the Office of Public Health and Safety.



OPHS has grown fast. Its operating budget increased from about \$19.3 million in 2020 to nearly \$33.8 million in 2026, which is a 75% increase. The audit also found weaknesses in oversight, documentation, vendor compliance, and performance tracking. That should matter to every resident.

Indianapolis cannot become the Smartest City in America if city

government grows without clear standards, measurable outcomes, and real transparency. Smart government is not just about launching programs. It is about proving results.

F2: Insufficient Invoice Documentation		Reference
Finding	84% of contracts tested had missing, incomplete, or insufficient invoice documentation, or failed to comply with contract terms. Issues included deviations from stated invoicing schedules, inadequate supporting documentation, and payment delays.	2
Criteria	Testing of payment documentation included the invoicing requirements for each contract for compliance with the following criteria: • Bi-weekly, monthly, and quarterly invoicing schedules • Proof of all expenses, including accurate and itemized records • Payments to be made within thirty (30) days upon receipt of properly itemized invoices	Risk Rating: High

This issue is especially important to me because back in 2022, I authored a resolution requiring departments to report spending and performance information back to the City-County Council. The goal was straightforward: if government is going to spend public dollars, it should be able to clearly explain what those dollars are doing. https://www.indy.gov/api/v1/indy_proposal_document?id=17703&name=PROP22-058&type=1&content_type=application%2Fpdf

To this day, we still have too much speculative reporting and not enough standard practice.

That has to improve.

F4: Contracts Awarded to OPHS Staff and Connections		Reference
Finding	OAP's contract review and leadership interviews found several contracts were awarded to vendors with significant connections to current OPHS employees. Additionally, one contract was awarded to a vendor who was employed by OPHS during the contract period. These connections were not disclosed, and there is no documentation to verify that any exceptions were granted, or that the OPHS employees with connections to the vendor were not involved in the vendor selection process.	4

As one of the City leaders helping press for a more accountable Indianapolis, I believe the public deserves more than broad descriptions and good intentions. Residents deserve evidence, discipline, and a government that treats performance measurement as a basic responsibility, not an optional exercise.

A Practical Public Safety Tool for the Summer

This week, the City-County Council's committee advanced a proposal to implement temporary public safety curfew hours for 120 days, if approved by the full Council on May 4.

Here is what that means in plain terms.

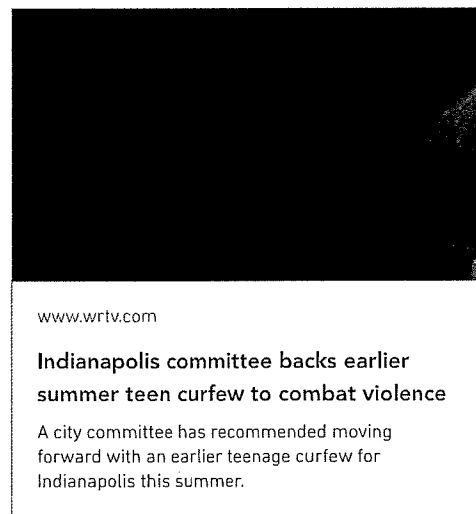
Current curfew: Kids under 15 must be off the streets by 11:00 PM every night. Teens ages 15 to 17 must be off the streets by 11:00 PM on school nights and by 1:00 AM on Friday and Saturday nights. **Proposed 120-day public safety curfew:** Kids under 15 would have to be off the streets by 9:00 PM every night. Teens ages 15 to 17 would have to be off the streets by 9:00 PM on Sunday through Thursday and by 11:00 PM on Friday and Saturday. This would last for 120 days.

Not because it solves juvenile crime by itself, but because it is one practical tool the city can use while broader solutions are still being developed.

It is also important to be honest about what this is and what it is not. At worst, this is generally a citation issue. City leaders have described a parental pickup process, not a jail-first approach. The intent is to reduce the number of unsupervised juveniles out late at night and, in doing so, reduce the opportunity for violence and victimization.

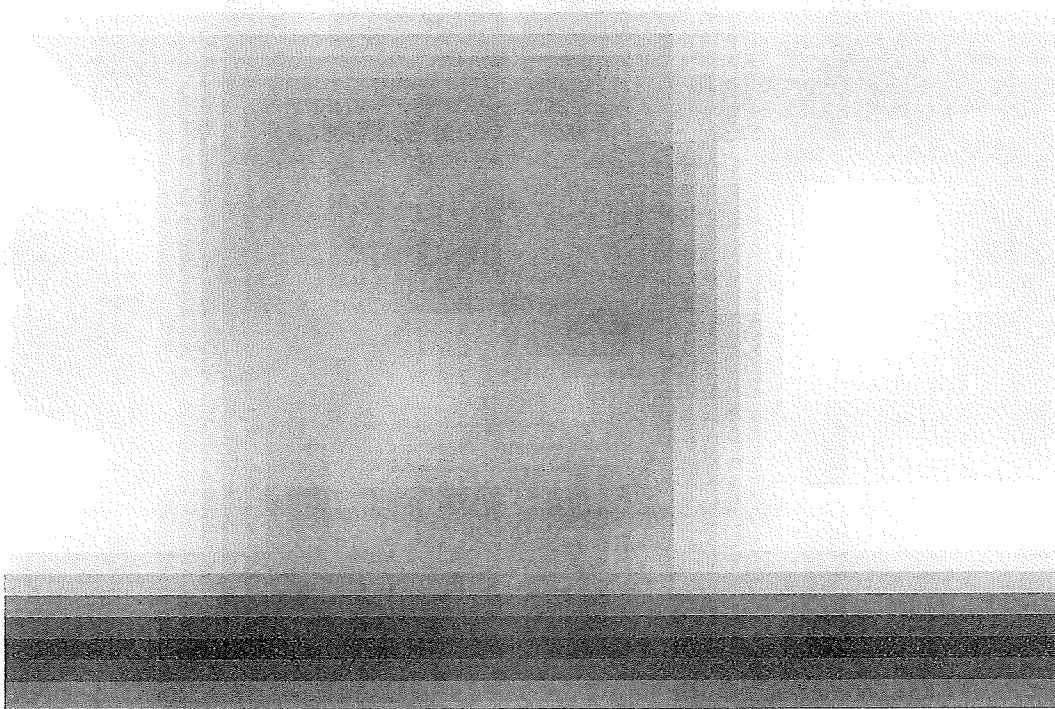
Last year, after the violence surrounding the Fourth of July, our city saw once again what can happen when conditions are ignored and risk is allowed to build.

I understand the argument that curfew hours alone will not reduce youth crime. I agree with that. But I also believe Indianapolis is capable of doing more than one thing at a time. A 120-day public safety curfew can exist alongside outreach, intervention, programming, and stronger family support.



Walking the Pennsy and Answering Questions on the Data Center

This week, I spent time walking the Pennsy Trail with neighbors and Mirror Indy to talk through what I know about the potential Eastside data center and answer questions directly.

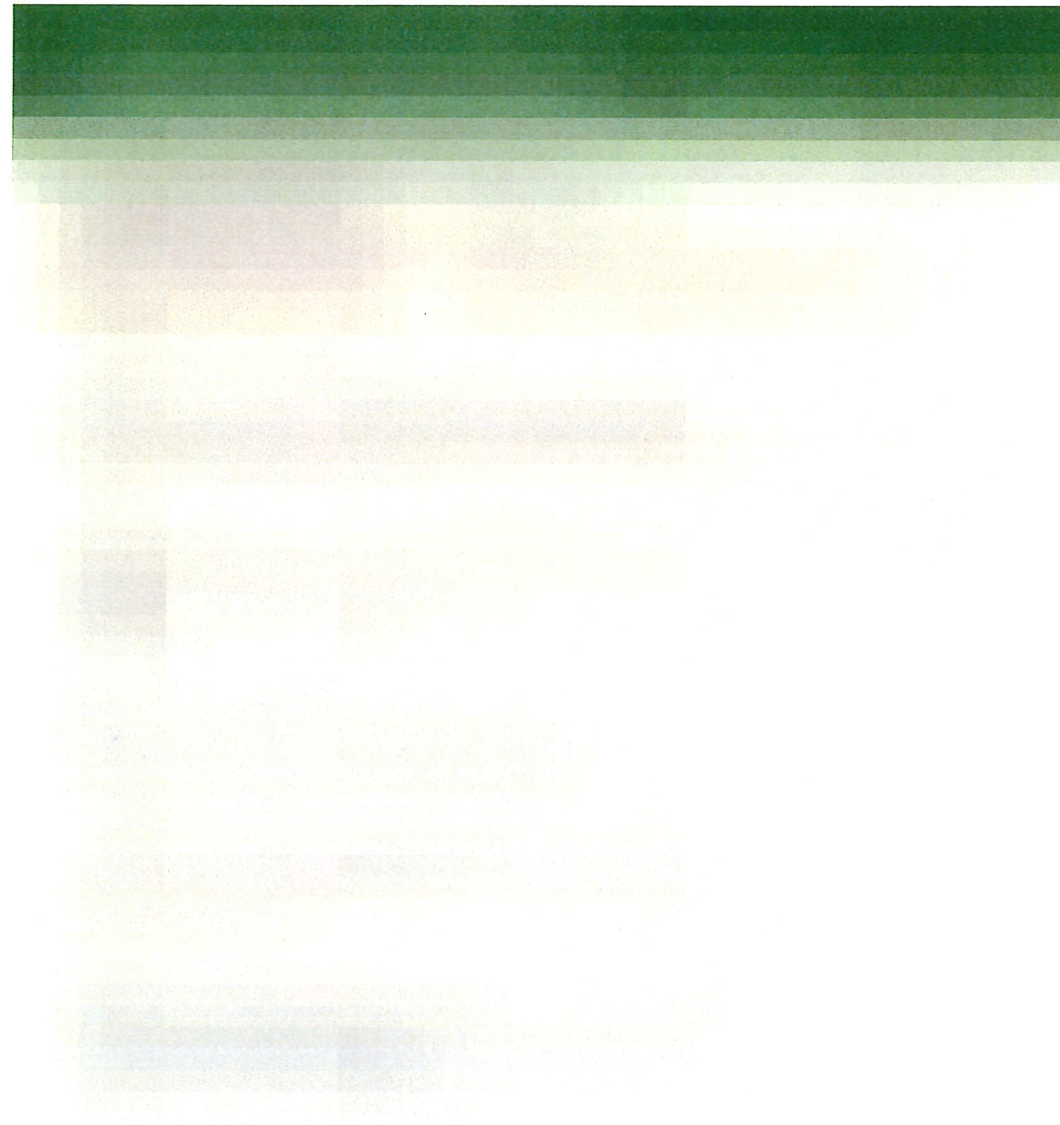


I was asked about sidewalks. The blue line represents new side walk installation.

At this point, not much has changed since I wrote about it last week. But I still believe there is value in showing up, listening, and helping residents understand what is actually in front of us.

I also want to remind everyone that **this is not a rezoning case. It is a use variance case.** That matters because it means there are limits to what can be done procedurally through the City-County Council. Residents deserve to know that plainly.

Even in a limited process, questions still matter.



That is why I want to encourage people to continue reaching out to me. If you want to meet for coffee, walk the Pennsy, talk by phone, or connect on Zoom, I am happy to make time. My goal is to help residents get clear answers, stay informed, and remain professional as this process moves forward.

That is part of what leadership should look like.

If we want to build the Smartest City in America, then we need serious community dialogue even when the process is constrained. We need facts, calm discussion, and a willingness to engage directly instead of just reacting from a distance.