

**[Statement from Monroe County Republican Party issued on July 15, 2025]**

**\*\*PUBLIC STATEMENT: COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
ACCOUNTABILITY\*\***

The Monroe County community deserves transparent, effective criminal justice processes that prioritize public safety and victim rights. Recent concerns regarding prosecutorial practices and jail management warrant community attention and engagement through proper legal channels.

**\*\*Current Challenges Requiring Community Oversight\*\***

Monroe County faces documented challenges in several critical areas affecting public safety. Rising operational costs within our detention facilities require careful fiscal oversight and accountability measures. Additionally, community members have raised questions about consistency in prosecutorial decision-making, particularly regarding serious felony cases involving sexual assault allegations.

Effective criminal justice administration requires coordination between multiple agencies and officials. When communication gaps or procedural inconsistencies occur, public safety may be compromised and victim confidence in the system may diminish.

**\*\*Legal Framework and Community Rights\*\***

Under Indiana law, community members possess specific rights regarding criminal justice oversight and transparency. The Indiana Access to Public Records Act (IC 5-14-3) ensures citizens can review relevant government documents and decisions. Monroe County Council meetings provide forums for budgetary and operational oversight discussions affecting law enforcement and detention facilities.

Victims of violent crimes maintain statutory rights throughout criminal proceedings under IC 35-40-5, including notification of plea agreements and sentencing recommendations. These protections exist to ensure meaningful participation in the justice process.

**\*\*Community Engagement and Accountability\*\***

Concerned citizens can pursue several constructive approaches to address public safety concerns:

Monroe County residents may attend public meetings to discuss budget allocations and operational policies affecting law enforcement and victim services. The Indiana State Board of Accounts provides oversight mechanisms for county financial management and operational efficiency.

Community members seeking information about specific cases or policies can utilize public records requests to obtain relevant documentation. The Indiana Attorney General's office maintains resources for victim advocacy and can address certain procedural concerns.

**\*\*Moving Forward\*\***

Effective criminal justice requires community engagement, transparent processes, and accountability at all levels. Monroe County residents deserve responsive public officials who prioritize both public safety and fiscal responsibility.

Community involvement through established legal channels ensures that concerns receive appropriate attention while maintaining the integrity of ongoing legal proceedings.