

RESOLUTION 2026-09

A Resolution Regarding Justice Project Location

WHEREAS, Since 2009, Monroe County has been under a federal order due to unconstitutional jail conditions. Recent studies commissioned by the county have reiterated that inability to guarantee constitutional level of care for those in the County's custody; and,

WHEREAS, the Commissioners believe that maintaining a constitutional level of care for those in the County's custody is a requirement that needs to be addressed as expeditiously as possible to ensure the safety of those housed in the facility and the correctional staff; and,

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners and County Council, with input from the Sheriff, Board of Judges, Prosecutor, and Public Defender had formulated a plan to construct a new co-located facility; and,

WHEREAS, recent State legislative changes have impacted the County's ability to obtain financing for a co-located project until 2029 after which the County will have a greater ability to raise income tax revenue to cover total project costs; and,

WHEREAS, a recent report to the County by Financial Solutions Group indicates current cash on hand and cash flow available project bonds would support a maximum of \$170 Million dollar jail project; and,

WHEREAS, the Commissioners understand that the bonding process and timeline is unknown as of the approval of this Resolution, but any delay by the County beyond those imposed by that process is an unreasonable timeline delay by the County and must be avoided; and,

WHEREAS, even before the bonding process is complete the current cash reserves the County holds in both the Economic Development Income Tax and the Correctional Income Tax should be appropriated and made available for this project; and,

WHEREAS, currently the County has not identified a location for the new facility; and,

WHEREAS, any site requires both the County Commissioners, as the county executive, and County Council, as the county fiscal body, to approve the location; and,

WHEREAS, the County Council unilaterally rejected the North Park Site without explanation as to what circumstances had changed since the Council's prior approval; and,

WHEREAS, a majority of the County Council did not express any opposition to the North Park Site until a vote was required; and,

WHEREAS, the North Park site is the only site that Commissioners unanimously support as it provides the most cost-effective and timely solution with the least amount of risk of further delays or confronting unknown site and/or design issues; and,

WHEREAS, the Commissioners understand that any location within the City of Bloomington will require at least a nine-to-twelve month plan commission and city council process and carries risk of rejection which would create further delays; and,

WHEREAS, every timeline delays lengthen the time individuals are kept in the current, failing, facility, additional construction cost increases which are estimated at 5% per year, will require transportation to out-of-county housing facilities, it is imperative that the project recommence; and,

WHEREAS, every timeline delay increases the likelihood that the Richardson Case will be dismissed and the County will be exposed to multiple lawsuits putting tax payers dollars at risk and increasing the risk the County could become uninsurable; and,

WHEREAS, even before the bonding process is complete, the current cash reserves the County holds in both the Economic Development Income Tax and the Correctional Income Tax should be appropriated and made available for this project.

NOW THEREFORE be it Resolved by the Monroe County Board of Commissioners as follows:

1. The Commissioners will continue to consider the North Park Site for the justice project.
2. The Commissioners will unilaterally reject any property that:
 - a. Will not allow for future co-location and expansion; and,
 - b. Will cause an unreasonable delay in the project.
3. The County Council is requested to commit to utilizing cash on hand to begin the project prior to issuance of a bond.

So Resolved through, Resolution 2026-09, by the Monroe County Board of Commissioners this _____ day of _____, 2026.

“AYES”

“NAYS”

Julie Thomas, President

Julie Thomas, President

Jody Madeira, Vice President

Jody Madeira, Vice President

Lee Jones, Commissioner

Lee Jones, Commissioner

ATTEST: _____
 Brienne Gregory
 Auditor