

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Bloomington Outlines Next Steps for College Square Redevelopment

Bloomington, Ind. – On April 20, the Bloomington Redevelopment Commission (RDC) voted to move forward with a public offering for the College Square property, establishing a structured and transparent process for evaluating redevelopment proposals for the site.

Prior to that meeting, the RDC received a request from the Capital Improvement Board (CIB) to delay the College Square public offering for 30 days. The CIB indicated the time would be used to pursue discussions on a land exchange proposal involving parcels south of the convention center. That proposal was included in the RDC meeting materials and considered by commissioners.

After considering the 30-day delay, the RDC opted to proceed with the public offering, which allows proposals to be submitted, reviewed, and compared within a defined framework.

The offering will be published on April 27, 2026 and includes an 84-day response window, with responses due in July. During that time, the City will continue its review of environmental conditions at College Square.

Commissioners determined that a 30-day delay would not provide sufficient time to obtain the appraisal, condition, and environmental information needed to meaningfully evaluate a direct exchange of public assets. Pursuing a public offering enables the City to consider a full range of potential uses for the site while continuing to assess the parcels South of the convention center.

The public offering reflects the City's previously stated priority to redevelop the College Square property in alignment with long-term downtown goals. The new request for proposals focuses on the scope of acceptable uses and may include hospitality or hotel development, among other economically productive options. Purpose-built student housing rented by the bedroom will not be considered as part of the redevelopment vision for this site.

By proceeding with a public offering, the RDC ensures that all proposals will be evaluated through the same public process. Any direct negotiations would occur only after offers are received and reviewed. If a proposal involving hotel development is submitted through the public

offering, the RDC will not move forward without coordination with the CIB as part of the convention center planning process.

The College Square site is a prominent downtown location, and decisions about its future will shape surrounding blocks, nearby businesses, and the broader downtown corridor for years to come. A public offering strikes a balance between downtown redevelopment priorities and fiscal responsibility.

The public offering period closes July 20. After that, the RDC will review the proposals received and consider next steps through its public meeting process.