

From: Kerry Thomson <kerry.thomson@bloomington.in.gov>
Date: May 27, 2026 at 3:45:23AM EDT
To: Trent Deckard <trentdeckard@co.monroe.in.us>, Kate Wiltz <lkwiltz@co.monroe.in.us>, Peter Iversen <piversen@co.monroe.in.us>, Jennifer Crossley <jcrossley@co.monroe.in.us>, Marty Hawk <mhawk@co.monroe.in.us>, Liz Feitl <lfeitl@co.monroe.in.us>, dhenry@co.monroe.in.gov
Cc: Jody Madeira <jmadeira@co.monroe.in.us>, Julie Thomas <jthomas@co.monroe.in.us>, Lee Jones <ljones@co.monroe.in.us>, Isak Asare <isak.asare@bloomington.in.gov>
Subject: Coming together

County Council Colleagues,

Last night, you did an incredibly brave thing to vote down the North Park property. I agree that it is not a fiscally responsible decision to move forward with that property, it has never been the community's choice for a site, and in the face of the lawsuit it can seem the safe thing to do.

Still, when it comes down to it, North Park has never been right.

I have, until now, stayed publicly out of the jail conversation— it is a county building, a county project, but it is, in fact, a community concern— and the entire community should be committed to collaborating to get us to a new point. After 17 years of pointing fingers, it is time to come together as leaders to exhaust every option until we find the best for our community. It is never too late to collaborate, and especially on the most difficult issues, as leaders we must.

My commitment is this: We will expedite the administrative side of zoning for any site within the city. I will invite the decision-makers back to the table to find our common ground. Our best move as a community in this moment is to elevate the values and principles we hope to live as a community—not only in the selection of a new jail site, but more importantly in the humanity of the treatment of those who reside there.

In partnership,

Kerry

Kerry Thomson

Mayor
City of Bloomington, IN
kerry.thomson@bloomington.in.gov
812.349.3406

(she/her)