

Resolution 2026 -36

A Resolution of the Monroe County Board of Commissioners Expressing Disappointment Regarding the Manner in Which a §287(g) Task Force Model Agreement was Executed on Behalf of the Town of Stinesville

WHEREAS, Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g), authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security to enter into a written agreement “with a State, or any political subdivision of a State,” under which officers or employees may be trained and authorized to perform specified functions of a federal immigration officer, and further provides that such functions are to be performed “to the extent consistent with State and local law”; and

WHEREAS, a decision to accept such delegated federal authority commits local personnel, local working hours, local equipment, and local budgetary and legal exposure, and materially alters the relationship between a police department and the residents it serves, and is therefore precisely the kind of governmental choice that belongs to elected officials acting in public; and

WHEREAS, IC 36-5-2-2 designates the town council as the legislative body of an Indiana town and the council president as the town executive, and confers no comparable authority upon a chief of police; and

WHEREAS, Indiana's interlocal cooperation law, IC 36-1-7, contemplates that an agreement between an Indiana local government and another governmental entity, including a federal agency, be approved by the local legislative body through an ordinance or resolution, be approved by the Indiana Attorney General, be recorded with the county recorder, and be filed with the State Board of Accounts within sixty (60) days after taking effect; and

WHEREAS, ICE records identify the Stinesville Police Department, serving a town of approximately 203 residents in northwestern Monroe County, as a party to a 287(g) Task Force Agreement bearing execution dates in February 2026; and

WHEREAS, a review of the publicly available agendas, minutes, and meeting recordings of the Stinesville Town Board has not disclosed any ordinance, resolution, recorded vote, or other formal legislative action of the Town Board authorizing the Town of Stinesville to enter into that agreement, whether before or after its execution; and

WHEREAS, this Board has been given no indication that any such instrument has been presented for recording with the Monroe County Recorder in connection with the Stinesville agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Stinesville Chief of Police has stated to media that the agreement was signed by him at the direction of a former chief of police; and

WHEREAS, in July, several months after the Stineville Chief of Police signed the agreement, that members of the Town Board, with the Town Attorney, were “briefed individually” regarding the program; and

WHEREAS, individual briefings of individual board members, and expressions of individual support obtained outside of a public meeting, are not the equivalent of formal action by a legislative body; and

WHEREAS, the people of Monroe County are entitled to know when their government is considering the acceptance of federal immigration enforcement authority, what public resources that acceptance will consume, who made the decision, and by what authority it was made; and

WHEREAS, this Board recognizes and respects the corporate autonomy of the Town of Stinesville and the authority of its duly elected Town Board, and offers this Resolution not as a directive but as the considered position of the elected executive body of Monroe County on a matter of countywide public concern;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED As Follows:

1. The Monroe County Board of Commissioners finds that the execution of a Section 287(g) Task Force Model agreement on behalf of the Town of Stinesville, without prior authorization by the Stinesville Town Board through an ordinance or resolution adopted at a properly noticed public meeting, was inconsistent with the democratic process, with the letter and spirit of Indiana's open government laws, and with the values of this community.

2. The Monroe County Board of Commissioners respectfully requests that the Stinesville Town Board:

- (a) place the 287(g) agreement on the agenda of a regular or special public meeting, with advance public notice consistent with IC 5-14-1.5;

- (b) make the agreement's full text together with all correspondence and records relating to its negotiation and execution available to the public in advance of that meeting;

- (c) receive public comment from residents before taking any action;

- (d) immediately suspend performance under the agreement pending that public deliberation; and

- (e) take formal, recorded action, on the record, to rescind, ratify, or modify the agreement, and cause any resulting instrument to be recorded and filed as required by IC 36-1-7.

3. The Monroe County Board of Commissioners reaffirms that Monroe County government will conduct its business regarding any agreement with a federal law enforcement agency in open session, upon public notice, with an opportunity for public comment, and by recorded vote, and

will not authorize any such agreement through private consultation with individual Commissioners.

4. The Monroe County Board of Commissioners requests that the Auditor of Monroe County transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the President and members of the Stinesville Town Board; the Stinesville Town Clerk-Treasurer; the Stinesville Chief of Police; the Stinesville Town Attorney; the Monroe County Sheriff; the Monroe County Council; the Monroe County Recorder; the Ellettsville Town council, the Ellettsville Clerk-Treasurer, the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Bloomington; the Indiana Public Access Counselor; and the members of the Monroe County delegation to the Indiana General Assembly.

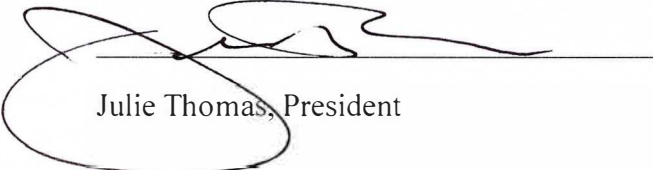
5. Nothing in this Resolution shall be construed to direct, supersede, or limit the lawful authority of the Town of Stinesville, its Town Board, or its Police Department, or to express a finding of law as to any matter reserved to a court or to the Indiana Public Access Counselor.

Adopted this 17th day of September, 2026.

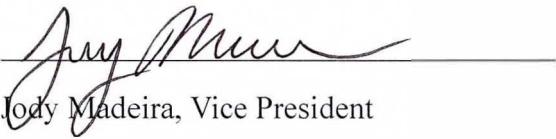
MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

“YEAS”

“NAYS”


Julie Thomas, President

Julie Thomas, President


Jody Madeira, Vice President

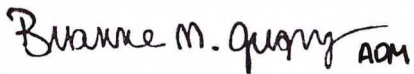
Jody Madeira, Vice President

Lee Jones, Commissioner

ABSENT

Lee Jones, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Brianne M. Gregory, Monroe County Auditor

Brianne Gregory, Monroe County Auditor