

**Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience  
Meeting Packet**

Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 6:00 P.M.

McCloskey Conference Room (Room 135), City Hall, 401 N Morton St, Bloomington, IN 47404

[This meeting may also be accessed by Zoom<sup>1</sup>](#)

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- 1. Agenda**
- 2. Minutes for Approval:** February 10, 2026
- 3. Chair's Report**
- 4. Commission Logo Options**
- 5. Community Joint Letter Supporting Resolution 2026-02** (184 signatories)
- 6. Resolution 2026-02** (with accompanying memo) concerning automated license plate reader surveillance technology
- 7. Amendment 1** for Resolution 2026-02
- 8. Resolution 2026-03** concerning the pedestrianization of Kirkwood avenue and sustainable transportation
- 9. Resolution 2026-04** against the user of glyphosate in Bloomington's public spaces and environmental practices
- 10. Officer Election Slides**

Note: a packet addendum also exists for this meeting as a separate document. It only provides contextual information related to the topic of discussion for Resolution 2026-02. All deliberative or actionable material is contained in this packet.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/84327085962?pwd=naI8LVmKZSoInPUHbXuw3h7oqMyi5g.1>  
Meeting ID: 843-2708-5962, Passcode: 034238

# **Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience Agenda and Notice: Regular Meeting**

Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 6:00 PM  
McCloskey Conference Room (#135), City Hall  
401 N Morton St, Bloomington, IN 47404

[This meeting may also be accessed by Zoom](#)  
Meeting ID: 843-2708-5962; Passcode: 034238

## **Commission Members & Terms**

Tara Dunderdale, appointed by Common Council, February 1, 2025 through January 31, 2027  
Justin Vasel, appointed by Common Council, February 1, 2025 through January 31, 2027  
Matt Austin (carryover), appointed by Common Council, February 1, 2026 through January 31, 2028  
Christopher Miles, February 1, 2026 through January 31, 2028  
Zach Ammerman, February 1, 2026 through January 31, 2028  
Dave Rollo, appointed by Common Council on January 10, 2024  
Quentin Gilly, appointed by IU Office of Sustainability on November 21, 2024  
Alex Jorck, appointed by the Mayor, February 1, 2026 through January 31, 2028  
Maria Aarstad, appointed by the Mayor, February 1, 2026 through January 31, 2028  
Chenghuai Xu, appointed by the Mayor, February 1, 2025 through January 31, 2027  
Diana Ogrodowski, appointed by the Mayor, February 1, 2025 through January 31, 2027  
Ross Carlson, appointed by Monroe County Commissioners on November 24, 2025

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <b>1. Call to Order</b>  | <b>6:00 PM</b> |
| <b>2. Roll Call</b>  |                |
| <b>3. Approval of the Agenda</b>   |                |
| <b>4. Approval of the Minutes</b><br>A. February 10, 2026  |                |
| <b>5. Public Comment</b><br>3 minutes per person   | <b>6:05 PM</b> |
| <b>6. Commissioner Reports</b><br>A. Chair's Report<br><i>Presenter: Justin Vasel</i><br>B. Waste Management Working Group<br><i>Presenter: Matt Austin</i><br>C. Council Ex-Officio<br><i>Presenter: Dave Rollo</i> | <b>6:15 PM</b> |

- 7. Discussions of Topics Not the Subject of Resolutions** **6:30 PM**  
A. Commission Logo Update  
*Presenter: Justin Vasel*  
i. Action Item: Approval is requested for a redesign of the Commission word logo to reflect the new name
- 8. Resolutions for Second Reading** **6:40 PM**  
A. Resolution 2026-02: Concerning Automated License Plate Reader Surveillance Technology and Its Implications for Social Sustainability, Community Resilience, and The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals  
*Presenter: Justin Vasel*  
i. Action Item: Adoption of the resolution
- 9. Resolutions for First Reading** **7:00 PM**  
A. Resolution 2026-03: Concerning The Pedestrianization of Kirkwood Avenue and Sustainable Transportation  
*Presenter: Zach Ammerman*  
i. Action Item: Advancement of the resolution to second reading  
  
B. Resolution 2026-04: Against The Use of Glyphosate in Bloomington's Public Spaces and Environmental Practices  
*Presenter: Matt Austin*  
i. Action Item: Advancement of the resolution to second reading
- 10. Staff Liaison Report** **7:05 PM**  
*Presenter: Shawn Miya*
- 11. Member Announcements** **7:10 PM**
- 12. New Business** **7:10 PM**  
A. Officer Elections  
i. Action Item: Election of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer
- 13. Adjournment** **By 7:30 PM**



**Bloomington Commission on Sustainability Meeting Minutes  
McCloskey Conference Room, City Hall, 401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana  
Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 6:00 P.M.**

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Justin Vasel called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

**2. Roll Call**

Members present, in person: Tara Dunderdale, Justin Vasel, Matt Austin, Christopher Miles, Zach Ammerman, Diana Ogrodowski, Ross Carlson

*Note: Quentin Gilly joined via Zoom at approximately 6:06 P.M. and Alex Jorck joined in person at approximately 6:30 P.M.*

Members absent: Dave Rollo, Chenghuai Xu

City staff present: Jolie Perry

Chair Vasel confirmed a quorum of seven members present at the time of call to order.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Chair Vasel noted the packed agenda and asked if there were any proposed changes. Hearing none, the agenda was approved by consent without objection.

**4. Approval of Minutes: January 13, 2026**

Chair Vasel asked if there were any corrections to the January 13, 2026 minutes. No corrections were raised.

**ACTION:** Matt Austin moved, and Diana Ogrodowski seconded, to approve the minutes of January 13, 2026. The minutes were approved by voice vote unanimously.

**5. Public Comment**

No members of the public were present in the room to offer comments.

Cale (virtual attendee) gave public comment via Zoom: On behalf of several Bloomington and Monroe County residents, Cale read a joint statement regarding Resolution 2026-02 concerning automated license plate reader surveillance technology. In the approximately 3.5 hours since the joint letter was shared online, 155 community members had added their names as signatories. Due to the volume of signatories, Cale stated the group would instead email the

joint letter and full list of signatories to the Commission, requesting inclusion in the meeting minutes and the public record.

The joint letter read in part: "We the undersigned ask the City of Bloomington Commission on Sustainability to approve Resolution 2026-02 concerning automated license plate reader surveillance technology... We fully support all measures of this resolution, including recommending that the city administration disable all currently deployed flock cameras in Bloomington and do not renew contracts with Flock Safety."

Chair Vasel directed the group to submit the letter to the Commission's official email address listed on the BCOS website.

*Note: Commissioner Gilly joined via Zoom at approximately 6:06 P.M.*

## 6. Reports from Commissioners

### A. Chair Report (Justin Vasel)

- Organizational Updates
  - *New Commissioner:* Chair Vasel welcomed Dr. Christopher Miles, joining the Commission for the first time in seat C-4. Dr. Miles introduced himself, noting his background includes work on the genealogy of sustainability, digital agriculture, and the political economy of ag tech, including a postdoc at Cornell studying ag tech's role in sustainability transitions.
  - *Reappointment:* Zach Ammerman was reappointed by City Council to seat C-5.
- Vacancies and Carryovers
  - Three seats remain vacant (M-2, M-3, M-5) and one carryover seat (C-3, Matt Austin). The Commission currently has 11 of 14 seats filled.
  - *Secretary Position:* The Secretary officer position is currently vacant following the departure of the previous secretary. Chair Vasel noted that given the proximity of the March officer elections, he did not propose filling the vacancy in the interim. Commissioner Dunderdale has been performing secretarial duties in her capacity as Vice Chair.
- Commission Name Change
  - The resolution passed previously recommending renaming the Commission to the "Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience" had its first reading at City Council the prior week. A second reading and vote are currently scheduled for February 18, 2026. Chair Vasel noted the Commission may have a new name by the next meeting.
- Strategic Planning Retreat
  - Chair Vasel noted that planning for an extended strategic retreat focused on commission priorities for the coming year is still in progress. He indicated he would continue working with staff to identify a suitable date and format.

*B. Waste Management Working Group (Matt Austin)*

Matt Austin reported no update at this time, indicating he would wait until he had a more substantive report.

*C. Council Ex-Officio (Dave Rollo)*

No report. Councilmember Rollo was absent and sent his regrets.

## **7. Discussion of Topics Not the Subject of Resolutions**

*A. Grant Report: Grandview Hills Pollinator Garden (Tara Dunderdale)*

Commissioner Dunderdale presented a report on the Grandview Hills Pollinator Garden project. She noted she was presenting in her capacity as a private citizen and resident of the Grandview Hills neighborhood, not as a Commissioner, given her earlier abstention from the grant vote due to potential conflict of interest.

- Project Overview
  - The neighborhood received a \$1,000 Sustainable Neighborhoods Grant from ESD in late 2024 to be implemented in 2025.
  - The neighborhood made a proportional match to expand participation to six homes.
  - 240 two-inch plugs from Prairie Moon Nursery were ordered, specified to each site's conditions.
- Key Resource Categories Required (beyond grant funds)
  - *Time and labor*: Grant application preparation, bed preparation (weeding, sod removal), planting, ongoing weeding, watering, and documentation (photography uploaded to shared Google Drive).
  - *Additional money*: Costs for mulch, water, professional landscaping assistance, protective materials (fencing, tomato cages).
  - *Knowledge*: Plant care and identification, weed identification, pest control (aphid management), and documentation processes.
- Results
  - 83% of plants planted in May 2025 were still alive in October 2025.
  - Several plants (including prairie blazing star, which was eaten by rabbits) are expected to regrow from roots in spring 2026.
  - Significant increase in pollinators observed, including monarch butterfly caterpillars, hummingbirds, and various bee species.
  - The project fostered strong neighborhood cohesion and ongoing collaboration, including a companion invasive species removal effort.
- Lessons Learned and Recommendations
  - Commissioner Dunderdale noted that while the grant funding was essential, significant hidden costs and labor requirements could be barriers to access, particularly for neighborhoods without existing networks of shared knowledge and resources. She recommended the city consider additional support (such as model project templates, streamlined applications, and community liaisons) to improve equitable access to the program.

Commissioner Miles asked about biodiversity metrics; Dunderdale confirmed that while the official success metric was plant survival rate, the report submitted to ESD included anecdotal documentation of new species observed in the neighborhood.

Jolie Perry noted the grant application has been updated and streamlined since this neighborhood applied, and welcomed specific feedback from neighbors who completed the original application.

Commissioner Gilly (virtual) commended the neighborhood cohesion component of the project.

*Note: Commissioner Alex Jorck joined the meeting in person at approximately this point in the agenda (~6:30 P.M.).*

### *B. Election Planning (Justin Vasel)*

Chair Vasel reviewed the Commission's statutory and bylaw requirements for officer elections, noting they must occur in March at a regular meeting. The four officer positions are: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Commission also has the option to elect two Co-Chairs in lieu of a Chair and Vice Chair.

- Current Officers
  - Chair: Justin Vasel
  - Vice Chair: Tara Dunderdale (also serving as acting Secretary)
  - Treasurer: Matt Austin
  - Secretary: Vacant
- Discussion of Process
  - Commissioners discussed how to administer the March election. The bylaws require elections to occur, but do not specify the procedure. Key points of discussion included:
    - The Commission has historically used an informal, position-by-position approach with nominations from the floor and roll call votes up or down.
    - A more formal approach with advanced submissions was discussed but not preferred.
    - The option of a co-chair model in lieu of Chair/Vice Chair was noted as a proven past model.
    - Secret ballots are not permitted under Indiana's Open Door Law.
- Consensus reached: The Commission will proceed with the same informal, position-by-position process used in prior years, with nominations from the floor.

Chair Vasel indicated he plans to run for Chair again and is open to a co-chair arrangement. He also noted the importance of fresh leadership and that he would support other commissioners' interest in the Chair position. Commissioner Dunderdale indicated she is open to others taking either of her current positions.

### C. O'Neill Capstone Statement of Work & Presentation Scheduling (Alex Jorck)

Commissioner Jorck presented recommendations regarding the O'Neill School Capstone project, which is studying the feasibility of a Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU) for Bloomington, using Ann Arbor as a comparative case.

- Presentation Scheduling
  - The students have requested Tuesday, April 28th at 5:00 or 5:30 P.M. as their preferred presentation date.
  - Commissioner Jorck suggested Thursday, April 30th as an alternative if Council Chambers or room availability is a conflict.
  - The presentation must occur at the end of April, as it marks the end of the semester; the May regular meeting would be too late.
  - Commissioner Jorck proposed a co-hosted event with the Environmental Commission in Council Chambers, inviting interested council members and city staff.
  - Jolie Perry noted that if either Commission might have a quorum present, the event should be properly noticed per the Open Door Law.
- Statement of Work — Recommended Modifications
  - Commissioner Jorck outlined three recommended changes to the statement of work:
    - *1. Qualitative to quantitative metrics:* The students' draft uses a qualitative assessment framework tied to the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission's (IURC) five pillars (reliability, resiliency, environmental considerations, affordability, and one additional). Commissioner Jorck recommended converting these to quantitative indicators for more robust analysis and clearer comparison.
    - *2. Financial modeling:* The students plan to use Levelized Cost of Energy (LCOE). Commissioner Jorck noted LCOE is becoming outdated in clean energy contexts and suggested a value-adjusted LCOE as an alternative, with an emphasis on municipal affordability (i.e., the cost of running the utility for the city) rather than simply comparing electricity costs to Duke Energy rates.
    - *3. Duke Energy language:* Certain sections of the statement of work reference benefits to both the City of Bloomington and Duke Energy. Commissioner Jorck recommended reframing this language to focus on the city as the client, and to instead frame the Duke relationship as managing "regulatory and utility friction." Multiple commissioners expressed agreement.
  - No formal vote was taken. Commissioner Jorck indicated he would submit feedback to the students promptly, with a request that any further commissioner suggestions be sent to him in the near future before the project scope is locked.

### D. BCOS and Earth Day 2026

Staff Liaison Jolie Perry confirmed the Earth Day event details:

- Date: Saturday, April 18, 2026

- Setup: By 11:00–11:30 a.m.
- Event hours: Noon–3:30 p.m.
- Location: Switchyard Park Pavilion (vendor booth area)

Commissioner Dunderdale volunteered to fill out the form to reserve the Commission's table space. Multiple commissioners, including Ross Carlson and Diana Ogradowski, confirmed they could be present to staff the booth.

Discussion included plans for updated outreach materials (seeds, stickers, QR codes). The Commission agreed to hold off on finalizing materials that would include the Commission's name until City Council votes on the name change on February 18. Commissioner Dunderdale noted she had identified a northern Kentucky vendor for locally ecotype-appropriate native seeds.

## **8. Resolutions for Second Reading and Discussion**

### *A. Resolution 2026-01: To Applaud The City's Response To The 2025 Lapse In Federal Funding Of SNAP Benefits*

Chair Vasel provided background: In late 2025, federal SNAP benefit funding lapsed. The City administration donated \$46,000 to Hoosier Hills Food Bank and City Council shared donation resources at a public meeting, encouraging ongoing community resilience. This resolution thanks the City administration and City Council for that response.

**ACTION:** A motion to approve was made and seconded.

- No discussion or amendments were offered.
- Resolution 2026-01 was adopted by a role call vote of 9-0-0

## **9. Resolutions for First Reading and Discussion**

### *A. Resolution 2026-02: Concerning Automated License Plate Reader Surveillance Technology And Its Implications For Social Sustainability, Community Resilience, And The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals*

Chair Vasel introduced the resolution, noting it addresses flock camera technology specifically while also offering broader analysis of the effects of mass surveillance on social sustainability, community fabric, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. He noted substantial research underpins the whereas clauses.

**ACTION:** Christopher Miles moved, and Tara Dunderdale seconded, to advance Resolution 2026-02 to a first reading.

- Discussion:
  - Commissioner Dunderdale asked about the dollar value of the Flock contract. Chair Vasel noted one contract (for a security trailer) was \$50,000; a separate police department contract exists but the value has not been confirmed. Ross Carlson estimated approximately \$2,500/camera/year based on publicly available

information, suggesting a total of approximately \$100,000 annually for ~40 cameras, not including installation.

- Commissioner Dunderdale suggested adding a clause to the resolution specifying that upon ending the Flock contract, funds should not simply be redirected to another vendor performing the same function. Commissioner Miles strongly endorsed this approach, noting that the city of Syracuse, New York voted that same day to end their Flock contract but immediately enter a contract with a different ALPR vendor. Commissioner Dunderdale indicated she would draft a proposed amendment for the second reading.
- It was noted that Flock cameras are leased rather than city-owned.
- Chair Vasel referenced ACLU model legislation (cited in Section 2b of the resolution) that could provide a framework for council oversight of surveillance technology contracts.
- Commissioner Miles commended framing the resolution within the SDG framework as providing useful governance language. He also noted a potential sustainability angle relating to the energy and rare-earth material costs of the broader political economy of surveillance technology.
- Multiple commissioners expressed strong support for the resolution, with Commissioner Carlson noting the Commission may be the first city body to take any action on this issue.
- Chair Vasel noted he will send commissioners a line-numbered version of the resolution along with a spreadsheet format for submitting suggested amendments, which will be compiled and presented at the second reading.
- Resolution 2026-02 was advanced to second reading by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

Resolution 2026-02 is scheduled for second reading, discussion, and vote at the March 10, 2026 meeting.

#### **10. Report from Staff Liaison (Jolie Perry)**

Jolie Perry reported the following:

- Solar Energy Efficiency and Lighting Grant Program is now open for applications from nonprofits and small businesses.
- *Bloomington Green Home Improvement Program (BGHIP)*: The residential rebate program has reopened for 2026. Despite the lapse in federal energy efficiency tax credits, the city is maintaining the same rebate levels as last year. The budget for the program is \$175,000.
- Sustainable Neighborhoods Grant Program has also reopened. Perry noted the budget may be slightly reduced from prior years but she would confirm. She encouraged prospective applicants to reach out to commissioners for help navigating the application process, noting city staff can answer questions but cannot assist in writing applications. Public inquiries can be sent to the Commission's official email ([sustain@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:sustain@bloomington.in.gov)) and Perry will forward them to available commissioners.

- *Solar Panel Installations*: ESD will fund solar panel installations at the Animal Shelter and Allison Jukebox Community Center through the municipal energy efficiency budget. The respective departments will manage vendor selection and installation coordination.

### **11. Member Announcements**

No member announcements.

### **12. New Business**

None.

### **13. Adjournment**

ACTION: Alex Jorck moved, and Ross Carlson seconded, to adjourn.

- The motion carried with a roll call vote of 8-0-1

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting: March 10, 2026, 6:00 P.M.

FOR APPROVAL



# CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

## COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

### CHAIR'S REPORT MARCH 10, 2026

Justin Vasel

#### Organizational Updates

We welcome Maria Aarstad (seat M-2) to the Commission!

C. Xu (M-4) is wrapping up his doctoral program and will be moving away from Bloomington at the end of April. Congratulations Chenghuai!

There are currently two vacancies (seats M-3 and M-5) and one carryover (C-3 M. Austin).

12 of 14 seats are filled; our quorum threshold is 7.

#### Resolution 2026-01 (Applauding the City's Response to Lapse in SNAP Benefits)

We adopted this resolution on Feb 10, 2026.

Resolution was transmitted to Office of the Mayor, Community and Family Resources Department (CFRD), and Council.

#### 2026 Strategic Planning Retreat

Late March or early April might be the ideal time to schedule this, especially if it is to become an annual event: it's after February when new terms begin and after we've had a chance to elect new leadership in March.

For this year, we're working to find a time and format that works for both Commissioners and staff. Keep an eye out for announcements.

#### 2025 Annual Report

The report is largely complete but still missing some details. Once ready, I will circulate by email along with a comment spreadsheet that commissioners can

individually fill out and send back. We will review the comments at the following meeting and vote to approve once the Commission is happy with the changes.

### O'Neill School Capstone Project on Sustainable Energy Utilities

Final report presentation is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2026 from 5:30–6:30 P.M. in Council Chambers. This will be an official and noticed BCOS meeting, but it is not at our usual Tuesday, and even then, it's not quite at our usual meeting time.

**ACTION:** Please indicate whether you can attend the meeting [here](#). It is important that we guarantee a quorum. Don't forget to add it to your calendar!

### External Updates

- Congratulations to Shawn and the rest of the City sustainability team for earning Bloomington a [CDP A-list rating](#) for the second year in a row!
- Council passed Ordinance 2026-04 on February 18, 2026
  - Renames our commission as “Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience”
  - Requires all board and commission members to sign a code of conduct
  - Consolidates provisions related to Boards & Commissions found in Chapters 2.12 and 2.08 into one place: Chapter 2.02.
    - BCOS provisions are now under § 2.02.120 (online version of municipal code has not yet been updated to reflect this)

### Misc Reminders / Notes

- [WRDMC Compost Bin & Rain Barrel Sale](#)
  - Order deadline: April 15, 2026. Pickup dates: April 24/25
- [Bloomington Energy Works](#)

### Resources

- Websites
  - [BCOS Webpage](#)
  - [BCOS OnBoard Page](#)
- Commission Documents

- [2024 Annual Report](#)
  - [Bylaws](#)
  - [Standard Operating Procedures](#)
- Working Group Grants
  - [Standard Operating Procedure](#)
  - [Application Template](#)
- BCOS Templates
  - [Resolution Template](#)
- Bloomington Policy Documents
  - [Bloomington Municipal Code \(BMC\)](#)
  - [Climate Action Plan \(CAP\)](#)
  - [Comprehensive Plan](#)
  - [Unified Developer Ordinance \(UDO\)](#)



**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**  
**COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

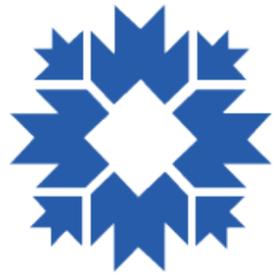
# **Commission Logo Update**

**March 10, 2026**

# New Name, New Logo!

## Original and Options

Current Logo



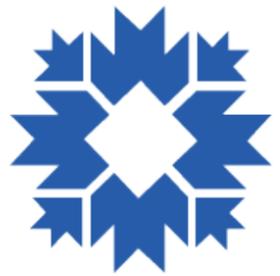
**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**  
**COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**  
**AND RESILIENCE**

### Option A

- Preserves current font properties
- Spans 3 lines instead of 2



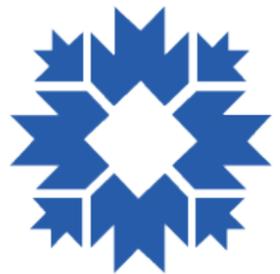
**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**  
**COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**



**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**  
**COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE**

### Option B

- Closer horizontal character spacing to fit on one line
- harder to read from a distance



**BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON**  
**SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE**

### Option C

- “City of” removed
- “Sustainability and Resilience” gets its own line and is emphasized text

**Community Joint Letter supporting Resolution 2026-02 “Concerning Automated License Plate Reader Surveillance Technology and its Implications for Social Sustainability, Community Resilience, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.”**

Public Comment to the City of Bloomington Commission on Sustainability - February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Thank you, Commissioners, for your time and for hearing public comments today. Several Bloomington residents who are concerned about Flock cameras in our community learned this afternoon of your resolution. We wish to respect your limited time for public comment and allow you sufficient time in your meeting for your agenda items. As such, we created a short joint statement and shared it online to be signed by fellow community members.

We had planned to read each signatory's name individually, but in just three-and-a-half hours since the joint letter was first shared, ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIVE community members joined as signatories, with even more people adding their names since the beginning of this meeting. Each of these Bloomington and Monroe County residents care deeply about sustainability and their community and support this resolution. As we would not have time to read the entire list of names in the allotted ten minutes for public comment, and to leave room if anybody else wishes to speak, we will instead email the joint letter and complete list of signatories to the commission, requesting inclusion in your meeting minutes and the public record.

The joint letter reads:

**We, the undersigned, ask the City of Bloomington Commission on Sustainability to approve Resolution 2026-02 “Concerning Automated License Plate Reader Surveillance Technology and its Implications for Social Sustainability, Community Resilience, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.” We thank the commission for recognizing that sustainability is a core component of our entire community, including resisting mass surveillance. We fully support all measures of this resolution including recommending that the City Administration “disable all currently deployed Flock cameras in Bloomington, and do not renew contracts with Flock Safety.” We look forward to hearing your discussion on this resolution tonight and your vote at the commission’s March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

Respectfully signed and submitted to the City of Bloomington Commission on Sustainability,

Aaron Comforty

Aaron Miller

Abby Adams

Abigail Gardner

AC

Aleshia Barajas  
Alina Boyer  
Andrew Quick  
Angelina Cossari  
Anna Hughes  
Annika Violet McPhearson  
Anthony Jay Porter  
Anthony Weber  
Audrey Kaul  
Audrey Smith  
Barry Herbers  
Bedford Dunklau  
Ben Myers  
Benjamin Jaffe  
Benjamin Robinson  
Beth Underdahl-Peirce  
Bo Taylor  
Brandon W.  
Bridget Stephens  
Brittany D. Friesner  
Bryce Chapin Bennett  
Bryce Greene  
Cale Ulery  
Caleb Best  
Cargile Williams  
Catherine Brennan  
Cathleen Paquet  
Charlotte Lee

Christena Taylor

Christi Baine

Clemence Pinaud

Cole Bowman

Cory Lamping

Crescent Marcotte

Daisy Dinn

Daniel Segal

Daniela Cook

David Johnson

David Jones

David Sloma

Deanna Burns

Dee Oates

Devin Ridge

Devin Silvers

Dominic Hancock

Dr. Alison Van Doren

Eavy Barbieux

Elaine Dalida

Eleadora Maxwell

Elise Tirmenstein

Elissa Booras

Elizabeth Barnhart

Elizabeth Singleton

Em Beck

Emily Nehus

Emma Young, Bloomington resident since 1998

Erin Aquino  
Evan Bull  
Eveline Washul  
Felice Cloyd  
Gardner Bovingdon  
Garrett Thompson  
Grace Wetzel  
Gray  
Gwen Greenaway  
Haley Molchan  
Hali Tauxe  
Irasema Rivera  
Irene Maginot  
Jack MacGregor  
James Smith  
Jana Pereau  
Jasper Wirtshafter  
Jayme carney  
Jes Golden  
Jesse Kogge  
Jessica Jordan  
Jett Mehay  
John Poston  
Joshua Giem  
Joshua Stephenson  
Josie Bowman  
Jurion Jaffe  
Kaitln Gillespie

Kate Hunt  
Kelli Wesley  
Kelly Lynch  
Kevin Ratcliff  
Kimberly J Herman  
Korinthia Nicolai  
Lake Turner  
Laura Monroe  
Lazuli Davis  
Li Meuser  
Lilliana Young  
Lily Malcomb  
Lily McDowell  
Lituo Huang  
Lucia Stavig  
Mariah Gese  
Mary Boyer  
Mary Shipp  
Matthew Lynch  
Maverick Steward  
Max Dexter  
Melissa Shelton  
Meredith Blankinship  
Mik Breeze  
Mills Handy  
Mobie Jean Glaser  
Natalie Twenty  
Nathan Heald

Nick Brock  
Nick Romy  
Nicole Myers  
Patrick Wall  
Rachael Keown  
Rachel Best  
Rachel O'Connor  
Rebecca Stewart  
Reed Hepburn  
Rima Montoya  
Rita Olsson  
Robert Freeman-Day  
Robert Pettie  
Robert Probst  
Roy Boyer  
Samuel Bowman  
Sara Gregg  
Sarah Baghdadi  
Seaforth Breeze  
Seth Mutchler  
Silvia Devine  
Sonia Lee  
Stacy Blair  
Stephanie Michael  
Stephen Smith  
Susan Seizer  
Sydney Myers  
T Randall

Tate Ensmenger  
Taylor DiClemente  
Teal Bingham  
Tess J Given  
Tom Lozano  
Trevor Nong  
Wade Rogers  
William Claytor  
Wolf Maddy  
Zachary Taylor

**Signed after February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting (additional 29 signatories):**

Alexander Henderson  
Amber Arthur  
Amelia Johnson  
Arryn Haynes  
Camille  
Claire Woods  
Dillon Smith  
Dylan Sullivan  
Emily Layton  
Gene Oudens  
James Shelton  
Jeff Moscaritolo  
Jefferson Freeman  
JS  
Julia Rose  
Kim Kanney

Luke Judd

Natasha Komoda

Rebecca Stoops

Rowan M

Sage Boyd

Sandy Washburn

Sarah Mosier

Shelby Freeman

Sierra Walden

Sophia Almeida

Stephanie Niemeyer

Sven Arthur

Tasha Parson



# CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

## COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

### MEMORANDUM

**To:** Members of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability  
**From:** Justin Vasel, Alex Jorck, Zach Ammerman  
**Date:** February 5, 2026  
**Subject:** Introduction of Resolution 2026-02 Concerning Automated License Plate Reader Surveillance

#### **Purpose**

We are introducing Resolution 2026-02 for the Commission's consideration at its upcoming meeting. This memo provides context for the resolution and summarizes its recommendations.

#### **Why This Belongs on Our Agenda**

BMC 2.12.100 establishes this Commission to advance sustainable policies across environmental, social, and economic dimensions, with the UN Sustainable Development Goals guiding our work. Resolution 2026-02 addresses the social dimension of sustainability—specifically, how mass surveillance technologies affect community trust, democratic participation, and the transparent governance that SDG 16 requires. Our statute also empowers us to advise on policies affecting community resilience, which depends on residents feeling safe to organize, attend public meetings, and engage in civic life.

#### **What the Resolution Does**

The resolution makes findings that mass surveillance implicates social sustainability and falls within our statutory mandate, and that the national record demonstrates policy safeguards have proven insufficient to prevent misuse.

It recommends that the Common Council conduct a public hearing on the Flock deployment and adopt a Community Control Over Police Surveillance (CCOPS) ordinance, modeled on the ACLU's April 2024 Model Bill, requiring Council approval before any city agency funds, acquires, or uses surveillance technology.

It recommends that the City Administration disable the cameras, decline to renew the contract, and disclose camera locations, data-sharing arrangements, and a full accounting of system usage.

A Statement of Values section acknowledges legitimate public safety concerns while clarifying that our concerns are structural—about participating in a

nationwide surveillance network—rather than directed at the Bloomington Police Department.

### **Why Now?**

The national landscape has shifted significantly. At least 23 municipalities have canceled, paused, or rejected Flock contracts since February 2025. Federal legislators have requested an FTC investigation. Security researchers documented 51 vulnerabilities, and journalists demonstrated cameras were exposed to the open internet. Illinois found Flock violated state law by sharing data with federal immigration authorities. We believe the Commission should make its voice heard while there is still an opportunity to influence the City's approach.

### **Our Request**

We ask that commissioners review the resolution before the meeting and come prepared to discuss. We welcome questions, suggested amendments, and debate.

Justin Vasel, BCOS Chair  
Alex Jorck, BCOS Commissioner  
Zach Ammerman, BCOS Commissioner

*Encl: BCOS Resolution 2026-02 (Draft)*



Sponsors:

Justin Vasel  
Alex Jorck  
Zach Ammerman

**RESOLUTION 2026-02**

**CONCERNING AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READER SURVEILLANCE  
TECHNOLOGY AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY,  
COMMUNITY RESILIENCE, AND THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

- WHEREAS, Bloomington Municipal Code Section 2.12.100 establishes the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability to "promote and advance sustainable policies and practices in Bloomington across environmental, social, and economic dimensions"; and
- WHEREAS, BMC 2.12.100 further provides that "The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a more detailed and comprehensive framework for organizing and prioritizing sustainability goals and actions" and that "The SDGs shall guide the commission's work"; and
- WHEREAS, BMC 2.12.100(8)(B) empowers the Commission to "advise and make recommendations to the Bloomington Common Council, city administration, and city boards and commissions on policies and programs that infuse the work of city government with an operating philosophy based on sustainability and community resilience"; and
- WHEREAS, the social pillar of sustainability encompasses equity, justice, democratic participation, community cohesion, and the protection of human rights, all of which are necessary conditions for achieving environmental and economic sustainability goals; and
- WHEREAS, United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16 ("Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions") calls upon signatories to "promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all" (Target 16.3), to "develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels" (Target 16.6), to "ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels" (Target 16.7), and to "ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms" (Target 16.10); and

WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington contracted with Flock Group Inc. ("Flock Safety") for the deployment of roughly 40 automated license plate reader (ALPR) cameras and associated subscription services; and

WHEREAS, Flock Safety operates a nationwide surveillance network comprising more than 80,000 cameras across more than 5,000 communities in 49 states, performing more than 20 billion vehicle scans monthly, with more than 75 percent of its approximately 5,000 law enforcement agency customers participating in cross-jurisdictional data sharing that allows officers to search license plate records captured anywhere in the network without a warrant; and

WHEREAS, Flock's technology captures not only license plate numbers but also detailed vehicle characteristics including make, model, color, body type, bumper stickers, damage patterns, and whether plates are missing or covered, enabling searches by vehicle description even without plate information; and

WHEREAS, federal inquiries and security experts have identified significant cybersecurity vulnerabilities within Flock Safety's infrastructure, including at least 35 compromised customer accounts, 51 separate security vulnerabilities<sup>1</sup>, and documented negligence in protecting sensitive data from unauthorized access or manipulation<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Senator Ron Wyden and Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi requested a Federal Trade Commission investigation of Flock Safety in November 2025<sup>3</sup>, citing compromised accounts and negligent cybersecurity practices; and

WHEREAS, the consolidation of sensitive movement data into a vulnerable, privately-managed network creates a systemic risk of exploitation by unauthorized parties, which can facilitate stalking, harassment, or other criminal activities, thereby undermining the community trust and resilience essential to sustainable governance; and

WHEREAS, investigations by the Electronic Frontier Foundation, 404 Media, Senator Ron Wyden, and other researchers have documented that federal agencies including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)<sup>4</sup>, the Secret Service, and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service have accessed Flock's nationwide camera network<sup>5</sup>, despite Flock's ongoing assurances to local customers that no such federal access exists<sup>6</sup>; and

---

<sup>1</sup> *Examining the Security Posture of an Anti-Crime Ecosystem v1.2-PR*, GainSec (Nov 11, 2025) (Online at [https://github.com/GainSec/anti-crime-ecosystem-research/blob/main/whitepaper/GainSec\\_Whitepaper\\_AntiCrimeEcosystem.pdf](https://github.com/GainSec/anti-crime-ecosystem-research/blob/main/whitepaper/GainSec_Whitepaper_AntiCrimeEcosystem.pdf))

<sup>2</sup> *Flock Exposed its AI-Powered Cameras to the Internet. We Tracked Ourselves.*, 404 Media (Dec 22, 2025) (Online at <https://www.404media.co/flock-exposed-its-ai-powered-cameras-to-the-internet-we-tracked-ourselves/>)

<sup>3</sup> Letter from Sen. Wyden and Rep. Krishnamoorthi to FTC Chair (Nov 3, 2025) (Online at [https://www.wyden.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/wyden\\_letter\\_to\\_ftc\\_on\\_flockpdf.pdf](https://www.wyden.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/wyden_letter_to_ftc_on_flockpdf.pdf))

<sup>4</sup> *ICE Taps Into Nationwide AI-Enabled Camera Network, Data Show*, 404 Media (May 27, 2025) (Online at <https://www.404media.co/ice-taps-into-nationwide-ai-enabled-camera-network-data-shows/>)

<sup>5</sup> *ICE, Secret Service, Navy All Had Access to Flock's Nationwide Network of Cameras*, 404 Media (Oct 16, 2026) (Online at <https://www.404media.co/ice-secret-service-navy-all-had-access-to-flocks-nationwide-network-of-cameras/>)

<sup>6</sup> *Does Flock Share Data with ICE or Federal Agencies?*, Flock Safety Blog (Jan 6, 2026) (Online at <https://www.flocksafety.com/blog/does-flock-share-data-with-ice-or-federal-agencies>)

WHEREAS, documented uses of Flock camera data nationally include: tracking of a woman suspected of obtaining an abortion in Johnson County, Texas<sup>7</sup>; monitoring of political protests and demonstrations in Tulsa, Oklahoma and elsewhere<sup>8</sup>; searches using discriminatory and ethnically derogatory language<sup>9</sup>; and stalking of individuals by law enforcement officers<sup>10</sup>, including a Georgia police chief arrested in November 2025 for using Flock cameras to harass multiple victims<sup>11</sup>; and

WHEREAS, data from Oak Park, Illinois revealed that 84% of Flock-related traffic stops involved Black drivers in a community where Black residents comprise only 19% of the population<sup>12</sup>, raising serious concerns about racially disparate impacts; and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois found that Flock violated state law by allowing Customs and Border Protection access to Illinois ALPR data<sup>13</sup>, prompting the City of Evanston, Illinois to terminate its Flock contract in August 2025<sup>14</sup>; and

WHEREAS, at least 23 municipalities have canceled, paused, or rejected Flock contracts since February 2025<sup>15</sup>, including Austin, Texas<sup>16</sup>; Cambridge, Massachusetts<sup>17</sup>; Eugene and Springfield, Oregon<sup>18</sup>; and Sedona, Arizona<sup>19</sup>, citing concerns about federal data sharing, civil liberties, transparency, and community trust; and

WHEREAS, sustainable governance requires that residents feel safe to organize, attend public meetings, speak at hearings, and engage in civic life without fear of surveillance, and the Commission's own work on food resilience, climate action, housing, and

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<sup>7</sup> *Flock Safety and Texas Sheriff Claimed License Plate Search Was for a Missing Person. It Was an Abortion Investigation.*, Electronic Frontier Foundation (Oct 7, 2025) (Online at

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2025/10/flock-safety-and-texas-sheriff-claimed-license-plate-search-was-missing-person-it>)

<sup>8</sup> *How Cops Are Using Flock Safety's ALPR Network to Surveil Protesters and Activists*, Electronic Frontier Foundation (Nov 20, 2025) (Online at

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2025/11/how-cops-are-using-flock-safety-s-alpr-network-surveil-protesters-and-activists>)

<sup>9</sup> *License Plate Surveillance Logs Reveal Racist Policing Against Romani People*, Electronic Frontier Foundation (November 3, 2025) (Online at

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2025/11/license-plate-surveillance-logs-reveal-racist-policing-against-romani-people>)

<sup>10</sup> *Sedgwick police chief tracked ex-girlfriend 164 times using license plate cams*, KAKE (Aug 18, 2024) (Online at

[https://www.kake.com/home/sedgwick-police-chief-tracked-ex-girlfriend-164-times-using-license-plate-cams/article\\_21fdfdb5dc5-11ef-95c4-8be8baa3f10c.html](https://www.kake.com/home/sedgwick-police-chief-tracked-ex-girlfriend-164-times-using-license-plate-cams/article_21fdfdb5dc5-11ef-95c4-8be8baa3f10c.html))

<sup>11</sup> *Georgia police chief charged with using license plate readers to stalk and harass people*, Associated Press (Nov 20, 2025)

(Online at <https://apnews.com/article/georgia-plate-readers-stalk-harass-chief-arrested-39adb6f89fc2074da61f2801fef3f180>)

<sup>12</sup> *84% of drivers stopped by Oak Park police in Flock traffic stops were Black*, Freedom to Thrive Oak Park (Apr 16, 2024)

(Online at

<https://www.freedomtothriveop.com/blog/84-of-the-drivers-stopped-by-oak-park-police-in-a-flock-traffic-stops-were-black>)

<sup>13</sup> *Giannoulis' Audit Finds License Plate Reader Company in Violation of State Law: Flock Safety Shared Illinois Data with U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Secretary Orders Flock to Shut off Data Access*, Illinois Office of the Secretary of State (Aug 25, 2025) (Online at <https://www.ilsos.gov/content/dam/news/2025/august/250825d1.pdf>)

<sup>14</sup> *City Deactivates Flock Cameras & Terminates Contract*, City of Evanston, IL Press Release (Aug 27, 2025) (Online at:

<https://www.cityofevanston.org/Home/Components/News/News/6676/249>)

<sup>15</sup> *Procurement Power—When Cities Realized They Can Just Say No: 2025 in Review*, Electronic Frontier Foundation (Dec 28, 2025) (Online at

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2025/12/procurement-power-when-cities-realized-they-can-just-say-no-2025-review>)

<sup>16</sup> *Hays County Votes to Terminate Flock Safety Contracts in 3-2 Vote*, KXAN (Oct 14, 2025) (Online at

<https://www.kxan.com/news/hays-county-votes-to-terminate-flock-safety-contracts-in-3-2-vote/>)

<sup>17</sup> *Statement on the Flock Safety ALPR Contract Termination*, City of Cambridge (Dec 10, 2025) (Online at

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/news/2025/12/statementontheflocksafetyalprcontracttermination>)

<sup>18</sup> *Eugene and Springfield both announce end of Flock camera usage*, OPB (Dec 6, 2025) (Online at

<https://www.opb.org/article/2025/12/06/eugene-springfield-end-flock-cameras/>)

<sup>19</sup> *Sedona Rejects License Plate Readers, Removes Flock Safety Cameras*, AZ Central (Oct 5, 2025) (Online at

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona/2025/10/05/sedona-removes-flock-safety-license-plate-readers/86268179007>)

other sustainability priorities depends upon robust community participation and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, peer-reviewed research has found that awareness of public surveillance cameras is negatively associated with perceived neighborhood cohesion, suggesting that surveillance infrastructure may accelerate the erosion of community social bonds,<sup>20</sup> and the International Association of Chiefs of Police has acknowledged that ALPR systems produce “a chilling effect on social and political activities”, and can cause people to “become more cautious in the exercise of their protected rights of expression, protest, association, and political participation because they consider themselves under constant surveillance”<sup>21</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the core principle of sustainability—meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs—applies not only to environmental resources but also to democratic institutions, civil liberties, and the relationship of trust between government and residents; and

WHEREAS, surveillance infrastructure, once deployed and normalized, is historically difficult to dismantle, and decisions made today about the acceptable scope of government monitoring will shape the civil liberties environment that future Bloomington residents inherit; and

WHEREAS, community resilience—a concept explicitly referenced in the Commission's statutory authority—depends upon trust between residents and government, social cohesion, and the willingness of community members to engage with civic institutions, all of which are undermined when residents reasonably fear that their movements are being tracked and their data shared with unknown agencies for unknown purposes; and

WHEREAS, environmental justice communities—those disproportionately burdened by environmental harms—are frequently the same communities subjected to disproportionate surveillance, and the Commission cannot credibly advance environmental equity while remaining silent on surveillance practices that burden the same populations; and

WHEREAS, the precautionary principle<sup>22</sup>, widely embraced in sustainability practice, counsels that when an action raises threats of harm, precautionary measures should be taken even if cause-and-effect relationships are not fully established, and the documented harms associated with ALPR surveillance warrant precautionary restraint; and

WHEREAS, transparency and public deliberation are foundational to accountable institutions under SDG 16, and the procurement of surveillance technology through

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<sup>20</sup> Takagi, et al (2020). *What Do Security Cameras Provide for Society? The Influence of Cameras in Public Spaces in Japan on Perceived Neighborhood Cohesion and Trust*. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 17, 477-464.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11292-020-09437-8>

<sup>21</sup> *Privacy Impact Assessment Report for the Utilization of License Plate Readers*, International Association of Chiefs of Police (2009) (Online at [https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/all/k-m/LPR\\_Privacy\\_Impact\\_Assessment.pdf](https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/all/k-m/LPR_Privacy_Impact_Assessment.pdf))

<sup>22</sup> *The Precautionary Principle*, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Oct 2022) (Online at <https://www.iisd.org/system/files/2020-10/still-one-earth-precautionary-principle.pdf>)

sole-source contracting without public notice or council deliberation does not reflect the participatory decision-making that sustainable governance requires.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY, THAT:

#### SECTION 1. Findings

The Commission finds that:

- (a) Mass surveillance technologies, including automated license plate reader systems, implicate the social dimension of sustainability and fall within the Commission's statutory mandate to advise on policies affecting sustainability and community resilience.
- (b) The deployment of ALPR surveillance systems raises substantial concerns under United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16, which the Commission is statutorily directed to apply in guiding its work.
- (c) The documented national record of ALPR misuse—including immigration enforcement, reproductive healthcare surveillance, protest monitoring, racially discriminatory application, and abuse by individual officers—demonstrates that policy safeguards and audit mechanisms have proven insufficient to prevent harm.
- (d) Participation in nationwide data-sharing networks creates risks that local policy controls cannot adequately mitigate, as data collected in Bloomington may be accessed by agencies and for purposes over which the City has no authority.
- (e) The procurement of surveillance technology without public deliberation is inconsistent with the transparent, participatory, and accountable governance that SDG 16 requires and that sustainable policymaking depends upon.

#### SECTION 2. Recommendations to the Common Council

The Commission respectfully recommends that the Bloomington Common Council:

- (a) Conduct a full public hearing on the Flock deployment, including testimony from civil liberties organizations, affected community members, and independent experts.
- (b) Introduce and adopt a Community Control Over Police Surveillance (CCOPS)<sup>23</sup> ordinance modeled on the ACLU's April 2024 Model Bill<sup>24</sup>, requiring Council approval before any city agency funds, acquires, or uses surveillance technology. The ordinance should apply retroactively, requiring approval of existing surveillance technology within 180 days or cessation of use.

#### SECTION 3. Recommendations to the City Administration

The Commission respectfully recommends that the City Administration:

- (a) Disable all currently deployed Flock cameras in Bloomington, and do not renew contracts with Flock Safety.
- (b) Publicly disclose the locations of all Flock cameras currently deployed in Bloomington.
- (c) Disclose what data-sharing arrangements are currently in effect and which agencies have access to data collected from Bloomington cameras.

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<sup>23</sup> Community Control Over Police Surveillance (CCOPS), American Civil Liberties Union (Online at <https://www.aclu.org/community-control-over-police-surveillance>)

<sup>24</sup> Model Bill: An Act to Promote Transparency and Protect Civil Rights and Civil Liberties With Respect to Surveillance Technology, American Civil Liberties Union (April 2024) (Online at: <https://assets.aclu.org/live/uploads/2023/08/ACLU-CCOPS-Model-Bill-April-2024.pdf>)

- (d) Provide a full accounting of how ALPR data has been used since deployment, including the number of searches conducted, the purposes documented, and any instances of data sharing with federal agencies or out-of-state law enforcement.
- (e) Ensure that any future consideration of surveillance technology procurement includes notification to relevant city boards and commissions and opportunity for public comment before contracts are executed.

#### SECTION 4. Statement of Values

The Commission affirms that:

- (a) Safe communities are sustainable communities, and the Commission does not dismiss legitimate public safety concerns.
- (b) However, public safety and civil liberties are not inherently in conflict, and Bloomington should pursue safety strategies that do not require mass surveillance of residents' movements.
- (c) The Commission's concerns are not with the Bloomington Police Department's actions or intentions, but with the structural risks inherent in participating in nationwide surveillance networks controlled by private corporations and accessible to federal agencies.
- (d) Intergenerational responsibility requires that we consider not only the immediate utility of technologies but also the long-term implications for the kind of community we are building and the civil liberties infrastructure we leave to future residents.

#### SECTION 5. Transmittal

The Chair is directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to the Mayor, all members of the Common Council, the City Clerk, the Corporation Counsel, the Chief of Police, the Board of Public Safety, and the Bloomington/Monroe County Human Rights Commission.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability upon this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

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JUSTIN VASEL, Chair  
Bloomington Commission on Sustainability

*The views expressed here are solely those of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability, as approved in their public meetings, and do not necessarily reflect the views, policies, or positions of the City of Bloomington. Only the Office of the Mayor has the authority to issue policy statements on behalf of the Executive Branch of the City of Bloomington.*



## Resolution Amendment Form

**Resolution #:** 2026-02  
**Amendment #:** 01  
**Submitted by:** Justin Vasel  
**Date:** 9 March 2026

### Proposed Amendment:

1. All instances of "Bloomington Commission on Sustainability" shall be replaced with "Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience"
2. The first instance of "Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience" in the WHEREAS clauses shall be replaced with "Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience (the Commission)"
3. The first instance of "Sustainable Development Goal" in the operative clauses shall be replaced with "Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)".
4. All instances of "2.12.100" shall be replaced with "2.02.120"
5. A new WHEREAS clause shall be inserted after the final WHEREAS clause as follows:

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2026, the Bloomington Common Council adopted Resolution 2026-04, which requires the Chief of Police and Office of the Mayor to brief the Council on the City's ALPR program within 6 weeks, imposes an immediate pause on expansion of the ALPR program until that briefing is completed, and states the Council's intent to develop an ordinance establishing durable rules governing the acquisition and use of ALPR technology in Bloomington.

6. Section 2 ("Recommendations to the Common Council) shall be reworded in light of Council Resolution 2026-04 to read as follows:

The Commission respectfully recommends that the Bloomington Common Council, in fulfilling the intent stated in Resolution 2026-04 to "develop and consider an ordinance to establish durable rules governing the acquisition and use of ALPR technology," adopt a Community Control Over Police Surveillance (CCOPS) ordinance modeled on the ACLU's April 2024 Model Bill, requiring Council approval before any city agency funds, acquires, or uses surveillance technology. The ordinance should apply retroactively, requiring approval of existing surveillance technology within 180 days or cessation of use.



- 1
- 2 Sponsors:
- 3 Justin Vasel
- 4 Alex Jorck
- 5 Zach Ammerman

6 **RESOLUTION 2026-02**

7 **CONCERNING AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READER SURVEILLANCE**  
8 **TECHNOLOGY AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY,**  
9 **COMMUNITY RESILIENCE, AND THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE**  
10 **DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

11 WHEREAS, Bloomington Municipal Code Section ~~2.02.1202-12.100~~  
12 establishes the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience (the  
13 Commission) to "promote and advance sustainable policies and practices in  
14 Bloomington across environmental, social, and economic dimensions"; and

15 WHEREAS, BMC ~~2.02.1202-12.100~~ further provides that "The United Nations  
16 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a more detailed and  
17 comprehensive framework for organizing and prioritizing sustainability goals and  
18 actions" and that "The SDGs shall guide the commission's work"; and

19 WHEREAS, BMC ~~2.02.1202-12.100~~(8)(B) empowers the Commission to  
20 "advise and make recommendations to the Bloomington Common Council, city  
21 administration, and city boards and commissions on policies and programs that  
22 infuse the work of city government with an operating philosophy based on  
23 sustainability and community resilience"; and

24 WHEREAS, the social pillar of sustainability encompasses equity, justice,  
25 democratic participation, community cohesion, and the protection of human  
26 rights, all of which are necessary conditions for achieving environmental and  
27 economic sustainability goals; and

28 WHEREAS, United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16 ("Peace, Justice  
29 and Strong Institutions") calls upon signatories to "promote the rule of law at the  
30 national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all" (Target  
31 16.3), to "develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels"  
32 (Target 16.6), to "ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative  
33 decision-making at all levels" (Target 16.7), and to "ensure public access to  
34 information and protect fundamental freedoms" (Target 16.10); and

35 WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington contracted with Flock Group Inc. ("Flock  
36 Safety") for the deployment of roughly 40 automated license plate reader (ALPR)  
37 cameras and associated subscription services; and

38 WHEREAS, Flock Safety operates a nationwide surveillance network  
39 comprising more than 80,000 cameras across more than 5,000 communities in 49  
40 states, performing more than 20 billion vehicle scans monthly, with more than 75  
41 percent of its approximately 5,000 law enforcement agency customers  
42 participating in cross-jurisdictional data sharing that allows officers to search  
43 license plate records captured anywhere in the network without a warrant; and

44 WHEREAS, Flock's technology captures not only license plate numbers but also  
45 detailed vehicle characteristics including make, model, color, body type, bumper  
46 stickers, damage patterns, and whether plates are missing or covered, enabling  
47 searches by vehicle description even without plate information; and

48 WHEREAS, federal inquiries and security experts have identified significant  
49 cybersecurity vulnerabilities within Flock Safety's infrastructure, including at  
50 least 35 compromised customer accounts, 51 separate security vulnerabilities<sup>1</sup>,  
51 and documented negligence in protecting sensitive data from unauthorized access  
52 or manipulation<sup>2</sup>; and

53 WHEREAS, Senator Ron Wyden and Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi  
54 requested a Federal Trade Commission investigation of Flock Safety in November  
55 2025<sup>3</sup>, citing compromised accounts and negligent cybersecurity practices; and

56 WHEREAS, the consolidation of sensitive movement data into a vulnerable,  
57 privately-managed network creates a systemic risk of exploitation by  
58 unauthorized parties, which can facilitate stalking, harassment, or other criminal  
59 activities, thereby undermining the community trust and resilience essential to  
60 sustainable governance; and

61 WHEREAS, investigations by the Electronic Frontier Foundation, 404 Media,  
62 Senator Ron Wyden, and other researchers have documented that federal agencies  
63 including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)<sup>4</sup>, the Secret Service, and  
64 the Naval Criminal Investigative Service have accessed Flock's nationwide  
65 camera network<sup>5</sup>, despite Flock's ongoing assurances to local customers that no  
66 such federal access exists<sup>6</sup>; and

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<sup>1</sup> *Examining the Security Posture of an Anti-Crime Ecosystem v1.2-PR*, GainSec (Nov 11, 2025) (Online at

72 [https://github.com/GainSec/anti-crime-ecosystem-research/blob/main/whitepaper/GainSec\\_Whitepaper\\_AntiCrimeEcosystem.pdf](https://github.com/GainSec/anti-crime-ecosystem-research/blob/main/whitepaper/GainSec_Whitepaper_AntiCrimeEcosystem.pdf)  
73 )

<sup>2</sup> *Flock Exposed its AI-Powered Cameras to the Internet. We Tracked Ourselves.*, 404 Media (Dec 22, 2025) (Online at  
71 <https://www.404media.co/flock-exposed-its-ai-powered-cameras-to-the-internet-we-tracked-ourselves/>)

<sup>3</sup> Letter from Sen. Wyden and Rep. Krishnamoorthi to FTC Chair (Nov 3, 2025) (Online at  
70 [https://www.wyden.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/wyden\\_letter\\_to\\_ftc\\_on\\_flockpdf.pdf](https://www.wyden.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/wyden_letter_to_ftc_on_flockpdf.pdf))

<sup>4</sup> *ICE Taps Into Nationwide AI-Enabled Camera Network, Data Show*, 404 Media (May 27, 2025) (Online at  
69 <https://www.404media.co/ice-taps-into-nationwide-ai-enabled-camera-network-data-shows/>)

<sup>5</sup> *ICE, Secret Service, Navy All Had Access to Flock's Nationwide Network of Cameras*, 404 Media (Oct 16, 2026) (Online at  
68 <https://www.404media.co/ice-secret-service-navy-all-had-access-to-flocks-nationwide-network-of-cameras/>)

<sup>6</sup> *Does Flock Share Data with ICE or Federal Agencies?*, Flock Safety Blog (Jan 6, 2026) (Online at  
67 <https://www.flocksafety.com/blog/does-flock-share-data-with-ice-or-federal-agencies>)

74 WHEREAS, documented uses of Flock camera data nationally include: tracking  
75 of a woman suspected of obtaining an abortion in Johnson County, Texas<sup>7</sup>;  
76 monitoring of political protests and demonstrations in Tulsa, Oklahoma and  
77 elsewhere<sup>8</sup>; searches using discriminatory and ethnically derogatory language<sup>9</sup>;  
78 and stalking of individuals by law enforcement officers<sup>10</sup>, including a Georgia  
79 police chief arrested in November 2025 for using Flock cameras to harass  
80 multiple victims<sup>11</sup>; and

81 WHEREAS, data from Oak Park, Illinois revealed that 84% of Flock-related  
82 traffic stops involved Black drivers in a community where Black residents  
83 comprise only 19% of the population<sup>12</sup>, raising serious concerns about racially  
84 disparate impacts; and

85 WHEREAS, the State of Illinois found that Flock violated state law by allowing  
86 Customs and Border Protection access to Illinois ALPR data<sup>13</sup>, prompting the City  
87 of Evanston, Illinois to terminate its Flock contract in August 2025<sup>14</sup>; and

88 WHEREAS, at least 23 municipalities have canceled, paused, or rejected Flock  
89 contracts since February 2025<sup>15</sup>, including Austin, Texas<sup>16</sup>; Cambridge,  
90 Massachusetts<sup>17</sup>; Eugene and Springfield, Oregon<sup>18</sup>; and Sedona, Arizona<sup>19</sup>, citing  
91 concerns about federal data sharing, civil liberties, transparency, and community  
92 trust; and

---

112 <sup>7</sup> *Flock Safety and Texas Sheriff Claimed License Plate Search Was for a Missing Person. It Was an Abortion Investigation.*,  
113 Electronic Frontier Foundation (Oct 7, 2025) (Online at

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2025/10/flock-safety-and-texas-sheriff-claimed-license-plate-search-was-missing-person-it>)

110 <sup>8</sup> *How Cops Are Using Flock Safety's ALPR Network to Surveil Protesters and Activists*, Electronic Frontier Foundation (Nov 20,  
111 2025) (Online at

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2025/11/how-cops-are-using-flock-safety-s-alpr-network-surveil-protesters-and-activists>)

108 <sup>9</sup> *License Plate Surveillance Logs Reveal Racist Policing Against Romani People*, Electronic Frontier Foundation (November 3,  
109 2025) (Online at

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2025/11/license-plate-surveillance-logs-reveal-racist-policing-against-romani-people>)

106 <sup>10</sup> *Sedgwick police chief tracked ex-girlfriend 164 times using license plate cams*, KAKE (Aug 18, 2024) (Online at

[https://www.kake.com/home/sedgwick-police-chief-tracked-ex-girlfriend-164-times-using-license-plate-cams/article\\_21fdfdbba-5dc5-11ef-95c4-8be8baa3f10c.html](https://www.kake.com/home/sedgwick-police-chief-tracked-ex-girlfriend-164-times-using-license-plate-cams/article_21fdfdbba-5dc5-11ef-95c4-8be8baa3f10c.html))

105 <sup>11</sup> *Georgia police chief charged with using license plate readers to stalk and harass people*, Associated Press (Nov 20, 2025)  
(Online at <https://apnews.com/article/georgia-plate-readers-stalk-harass-chief-arrested-39adb6f89fc2074da61f2801fef3f180>)

103 <sup>12</sup> *84% of drivers stopped by Oak Park police in Flock traffic stops were Black*, Freedom to Thrive Oak Park (Apr 16, 2024)  
(Online at

<https://www.freedomtothriveop.com/blog/84-of-the-drivers-stopped-by-oak-park-police-in-a-flock-traffic-stops-were-black>)

101 <sup>13</sup> *Giannoulis' Audit Finds License Plate Reader Company in Violation of State Law: Flock Safety Shared Illinois Data with  
102 U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Secretary Orders Flock to Shut off Data Access*, Illinois Office of the Secretary of State  
(Aug 25, 2025) (Online at <https://www.ilsos.gov/content/dam/news/2025/august/250825d1.pdf>)

100 <sup>14</sup> *City Deactivates Flock Cameras & Terminates Contract*, City of Evanston, IL Press Release (Aug 27, 2025) (Online at:  
<https://www.cityofevanston.org/Home/Components/News/News/6676/249>)

98 <sup>15</sup> *Procurement Power—When Cities Realized They Can Just Say No: 2025 in Review*, Electronic Frontier Foundation (Dec 28,  
99 2025) (Online at

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2025/12/procurement-power-when-cities-realized-they-can-just-say-no-2025-review>)

97 <sup>16</sup> *Hays County Votes to Terminate Flock Safety Contracts in 3-2 Vote*, KXAN (Oct 14, 2025) (Online at

<https://www.kxan.com/news/hays-county-votes-to-terminate-flock-safety-contracts-in-3-2-vote/>)

96 <sup>17</sup> *Statement on the Flock Safety ALPR Contract Termination*, City of Cambridge (Dec 10, 2025) (Online at

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/news/2025/12/statementontheflocksafetyalprcontracttermination>)

95 <sup>18</sup> *Eugene and Springfield both announce end of Flock camera usage*, OPB (Dec 6, 2025) (Online at

<https://www.opb.org/article/2025/12/06/eugene-springfield-end-flock-cameras/>)

93 <sup>19</sup> *Sedona Rejects License Plate Readers, Removes Flock Safety Cameras*, AZ Central (Oct 5, 2025) (Online at

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona/2025/10/05/sedona-removes-flock-safety-license-plate-readers/86268179007>

94 )

114 WHEREAS, sustainable governance requires that residents feel safe to organize,  
115 attend public meetings, speak at hearings, and engage in civic life without fear of  
116 surveillance, and the Commission's own work on food resilience, climate action,  
117 housing, and other sustainability priorities depends upon robust community  
118 participation and advocacy; and

119 WHEREAS, peer-reviewed research has found that awareness of public  
120 surveillance cameras is negatively associated with perceived neighborhood  
121 cohesion, suggesting that surveillance infrastructure may accelerate the erosion of  
122 community social bonds,<sup>20</sup> and the International Association of Chiefs of Police  
123 has acknowledged that ALPR systems produce “a chilling effect on social and  
124 political activities”, and can cause people to “become more cautious in the  
125 exercise of their protected rights of expression, protest, association, and political  
126 participation because they consider themselves under constant surveillance”<sup>21</sup>; and

127 WHEREAS, the core principle of sustainability—meeting present needs without  
128 compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs—applies  
129 not only to environmental resources but also to democratic institutions, civil  
130 liberties, and the relationship of trust between government and residents; and

131 WHEREAS, surveillance infrastructure, once deployed and normalized, is  
132 historically difficult to dismantle, and decisions made today about the acceptable  
133 scope of government monitoring will shape the civil liberties environment that  
134 future Bloomington residents inherit; and

135 WHEREAS, community resilience—a concept explicitly referenced in the  
136 Commission's statutory authority—depends upon trust between residents and  
137 government, social cohesion, and the willingness of community members to  
138 engage with civic institutions, all of which are undermined when residents  
139 reasonably fear that their movements are being tracked and their data shared with  
140 unknown agencies for unknown purposes; and

141 WHEREAS, environmental justice communities—those disproportionately  
142 burdened by environmental harms—are frequently the same communities  
143 subjected to disproportionate surveillance, and the Commission cannot credibly  
144 advance environmental equity while remaining silent on surveillance practices  
145 that burden the same populations; and

146 WHEREAS, the precautionary principle<sup>22</sup>, widely embraced in sustainability  
147 practice, counsels that when an action raises threats of harm, precautionary  
148 measures should be taken even if cause-and-effect relationships are not fully  
149 established, and the documented harms associated with ALPR surveillance  
150 warrant precautionary restraint; and

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<sup>20</sup> Takagi, et al (2020). *What Do Security Cameras Provide for Society? The Influence of Cameras in Public Spaces in Japan on Perceived Neighborhood Cohesion and Trust*. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 17, 477-464.

153 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11292-020-09437-8>

154 <sup>21</sup> *Privacy Impact Assessment Report for the Utilization of License Plate Readers*, International Association of Chiefs of Police (2009) (Online at [https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/all/k-m/LPR\\_Privacy\\_Impact\\_Assessment.pdf](https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/all/k-m/LPR_Privacy_Impact_Assessment.pdf))

155 <sup>22</sup> *The Precautionary Principle*, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Oct 2022) (Online at <https://www.iisd.org/system/files/2020-10/still-one-earth-precautionary-principle.pdf>)

155 WHEREAS, transparency and public deliberation are foundational to  
156 accountable institutions under SDG 16, and the procurement of surveillance  
157 technology through sole-source contracting without public notice or council  
158 deliberation does not reflect the participatory decision-making that sustainable  
159 governance requires; and

160 WHEREAS, on March 4, 2026, the Bloomington Common Council adopted  
161 Resolution 2026-04, which requires the Chief of Police and Office of the Mayor  
162 to brief the Council on the City's ALPR program within 6 weeks, imposes an  
163 immediate pause on expansion of the ALPR program until that briefing is  
164 completed, and states the Council's intent to develop an ordinance establishing  
165 durable rules governing the acquisition and use of ALPR technology in  
166 Bloomington.

167 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BLOOMINGTON  
168 COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE, THAT:

169 SECTION 1. Findings

170 The Commission finds that:

- 171 (a) Mass surveillance technologies, including automated license plate reader systems,  
172 implicate the social dimension of sustainability and fall within the Commission's  
173 statutory mandate to advise on policies affecting sustainability and community resilience.  
174 (b) The deployment of ALPR surveillance systems raises substantial concerns under United  
175 Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, which the Commission is statutorily  
176 directed to apply in guiding its work.  
177 (c) The documented national record of ALPR misuse—including immigration enforcement,  
178 reproductive healthcare surveillance, protest monitoring, racially discriminatory  
179 application, and abuse by individual officers—demonstrates that policy safeguards and  
180 audit mechanisms have proven insufficient to prevent harm.  
181 (d) Participation in nationwide data-sharing networks creates risks that local policy controls  
182 cannot adequately mitigate, as data collected in Bloomington may be accessed by  
183 agencies and for purposes over which the City has no authority.  
184 (e) The procurement of surveillance technology without public deliberation is inconsistent  
185 with the transparent, participatory, and accountable governance that SDG 16 requires and  
186 that sustainable policymaking depends upon.

187 SECTION 2. Recommendations to the Common Council

188 The Commission respectfully recommends that the Bloomington Common Council, in fulfilling  
189 the intent stated in Resolution 2026-04 to “develop and consider an ordinance to establish  
190 durable rules governing the acquisition and use of ALPR technology,” adopt a Community  
191 Control Over Police Surveillance (CCOPS)<sup>23</sup> ordinance modeled on the ACLU's April 2024  
192 Model Bill<sup>24</sup>, requiring Council approval before any city agency funds, acquires, or uses

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195 <sup>23</sup> Community Control Over Police Surveillance (CCOPS), American Civil Liberties Union (Online at  
<https://www.aclu.org/community-control-over-police-surveillance>)

193 <sup>24</sup> Model Bill: An Act to Promote Transparency and Protect Civil Rights and Civil Liberties With Respect to  
194 Surveillance Technology, American Civil Liberties Union (April 2024) (Online at:  
<https://assets.aclu.org/live/uploads/2023/08/ACLU-CCOPS-Model-Bill-April-2024.pdf>)

196 surveillance technology. The ordinance should apply retroactively, requiring approval of existing  
197 surveillance technology within 180 days or cessation of use.

198 (a) ~~Conduct a full public hearing on the Flock deployment, including testimony from civil~~  
199 ~~liberties organizations, affected community members, and independent experts.~~¶

200 (b) ~~Introduce and adopt a Community Control Over Police Surveillance (CCOPS)<sup>25</sup>~~  
201 ~~ordinance modeled on the ACLU's April 2024 Model Bill<sup>26</sup>, requiring Council approval~~  
202 ~~before any city agency funds, acquires, or uses surveillance technology. The ordinance~~  
203 ~~should apply retroactively, requiring approval of existing surveillance technology within~~  
204 ~~180 days or cessation of use.~~

### 205 SECTION 3. Recommendations to the City Administration

206 The Commission respectfully recommends that the City Administration:

- 207 (a) Disable all currently deployed Flock cameras in Bloomington, and do not renew contracts  
208 with Flock Safety.
- 209 (b) Publicly disclose the locations of all Flock cameras currently deployed in Bloomington.
- 210 (c) Disclose what data-sharing arrangements are currently in effect and which agencies have  
211 access to data collected from Bloomington cameras.
- 212 (d) Provide a full accounting of how ALPR data has been used since deployment, including  
213 the number of searches conducted, the purposes documented, and any instances of data  
214 sharing with federal agencies or out-of-state law enforcement.
- 215 (e) Ensure that any future consideration of surveillance technology procurement includes  
216 notification to relevant city boards and commissions and opportunity for public comment  
217 before contracts are executed.

### 218 SECTION 4. Statement of Values

219 The Commission affirms that:

- 220 (a) Safe communities are sustainable communities, and the Commission does not dismiss  
221 legitimate public safety concerns.
- 222 (b) However, public safety and civil liberties are not inherently in conflict, and Bloomington  
223 should pursue safety strategies that do not require mass surveillance of residents'  
224 movements.
- 225 (c) The Commission's concerns are not with the Bloomington Police Department's actions or  
226 intentions, but with the structural risks inherent in participating in nationwide  
227 surveillance networks controlled by private corporations and accessible to federal  
228 agencies.
- 229 (d) Intergenerational responsibility requires that we consider not only the immediate utility of  
230 technologies but also the long-term implications for the kind of community we are  
231 building and the civil liberties infrastructure we leave to future residents.

### 232 SECTION 5. Transmittal

233 The Chair is directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to the Mayor, all members of the  
234 Common Council, the City Clerk, the Corporation Counsel, the Chief of Police, the Board of  
235 Public Safety, and the Bloomington/Monroe County Human Rights Commission.

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238 <sup>25</sup> ~~Community Control Over Police Surveillance (CCOPS), American Civil Liberties Union (Online at~~  
~~<https://www.aclu.org/community-control-over-police-surveillance>)~~¶

236 <sup>26</sup> ~~Model Bill: An Act to Promote Transparency and Protect Civil Rights and Civil Liberties With Respect to~~  
237 ~~Surveillance Technology, American Civil Liberties Union (April 2024) (Online at:~~  
~~<https://assets.aclu.org/live/uploads/2023/08/ACLU-CCOPS-Model-Bill-April-2024.pdf>)~~¶

239 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience  
240 upon this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

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JUSTIN VASEL, Chair  
Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and  
Resilience

245 *The views expressed here are solely those of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience, as approved in their public meetings,*  
246 *and do not necessarily reflect the views, policies, or positions of the City of Bloomington. Only the Office of the Mayor has the authority to issue*  
247 *policy statements on behalf of the Executive Branch of the City of Bloomington.*

AMENDMENT 1



1

2 Sponsor:

3 Zach Ammerman

4

**RESOLUTION 2026-03**

5

**CONCERNING THE PEDESTRIANIZATION OF KIRKWOOD AVENUE AND  
SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION**

6

7 WHEREAS, the Bloomington Municipal Code establishes the Bloomington Commission on  
8 Sustainability and Resilience to "promote and advance sustainable policies and  
9 practices in Bloomington across environmental, social, and economic  
10 dimensions"; and

11 WHEREAS, The Bloomington Municipal Code empowers the Commission to "advise and  
12 make recommendations to the Bloomington Common Council, city  
13 administration, and city boards and commissions on policies and programs that  
14 infuse the work of city government with an operating philosophy based on  
15 sustainability and community resilience"; and

16 WHEREAS, United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11 ("Sustainable Cities and  
17 Communities") calls upon signatories to provide sustainable transport systems and  
18 universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible public spaces; and

19 WHEREAS, Kirkwood Avenue between the Indiana University Sample Gates and the  
20 Courthouse Square represents the most iconic and heavily trafficked pedestrian  
21 corridor in Bloomington; and

22 WHEREAS, the Bloomington Common Council unanimously passed Ordinance 2025-02<sup>1</sup>  
23 establishing a multi-year Kirkwood Outdoor Dining Program, with the stated  
24 intent of providing businesses certainty and a clear path toward a more  
25 pedestrian-oriented Kirkwood; and

26 WHEREAS, the administration's February 2026 proposal to suspend the seasonal street closure  
27 program drew criticism from multiple councilmembers and members of the  
28 public, who characterized it as violating the spirit of the ordinance and  
29 undermining years of progress toward pedestrianization; and

30 WHEREAS, when configured for automobile traffic, motor vehicles dominate the streetscape,  
31 relegating pedestrians to narrow sidewalks and excluding cyclists from a corridor  
32 that lacks dedicated cycling infrastructure; and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://bloomington.in.gov/onboard/legislationFiles/5850>

33 WHEREAS, Church Street in Burlington, Vermont; Pearl Street in Boulder, Colorado; and the  
34 Main Street Downtown Mall in Charlottesville, Virginia, demonstrate that  
35 permanent pedestrian corridors in analog university communities can thrive  
36 year-round economically while creating vibrant, sustainable public spaces; and

37 WHEREAS, research consistently demonstrates that business owners overestimate the  
38 proportion of customers arriving by automobile, underestimate the percentage of  
39 customers arriving by transit, biking, or walking, and that pedestrianized  
40 commercial districts often experience increased foot traffic and economic  
41 activity<sup>2</sup>; and

42 WHEREAS, the current uncertainty regarding Kirkwood's status, oscillating between  
43 pedestrian and automobile setups, prevents businesses and the City from making  
44 long-term investments in streetscape improvements; and

45 WHEREAS, the administration's primary quantitative justification for suspending the program,  
46 an 8% decline in visitor traffic along the Kirkwood corridor, is derived from an AI  
47 analytics firm with no available methodology, falls barely outside the firm's own  
48 self-reported 5% margin of error for visit data, and does not account for  
49 confounding factors including broader national economic and political conditions,  
50 making it an extraordinarily thin evidentiary basis for abandoning a popular  
51 public program; and

52 WHEREAS, the administration has framed the Kirkwood program as a revenue question by  
53 comparing approximately \$80,000 in forgone parking meter revenue to  
54 approximately \$17,000 in outdoor dining permit fees, yet these figures combined  
55 represent a negligible fraction of the City's annual operating budget (the amount is  
56 equal to 0.0004% of the 2025 operating budget), and decisions about the use of  
57 public space should not hinge on such comparisons; and

58 WHEREAS, the Mayor, in a February 18 interview with Indiana Public Media, stated that  
59 “only five” businesses along the corridor expressed support for the  
60 pedestrianization program, but according to the city’s published survey results, at  
61 least 20 businesses surveyed along the corridor expressed “strong support” of  
62 continuing the program, the largest category, with more than 50% indicating  
63 support of any degree, but that such decisions nonetheless should not be made  
64 based solely or largely on the opinions of individuals who happen to own  
65 businesses nearby, but rather primarily on the benefits of the program to the  
66 Bloomington community as a whole; and

67 WHEREAS, the administration plans to unilaterally abandon the Kirkwood pedestrianization  
68 program starting in summer 2026, violating the spirit if not the letter of Council  
69 Ordinance 2025-02.

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<sup>2</sup> von Schneidmesser, Dirk, and Jody Betzien. 2021. “Local Business Perception vs. Mobility Behavior  
70 of Shoppers” Findings, June 2021. <https://doi.org/10.32866/001c.24497>; and  
71 <https://ggwash.org/view/96602/survey-most-shopkeepers-shoppers-overestimate-car-use>

72 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BLOOMINGTON  
73 COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY, THAT:

74 SECTION 1. The Commission finds that:

75 (a) Street design and transportation infrastructure implicate environmental, social, and  
76 economic dimensions of sustainability and fall within the Commission's statutory  
77 mandate.

78 (b) Pedestrian-oriented street design promotes sustainable transportation, public health,  
79 social interaction, and economic vitality.

80 (c) The years-long pattern of seasonal closures has established a community expectation  
81 that Kirkwood will function as a pedestrian space, and reversing this trajectory  
82 undermines both business planning and public trust.

83 SECTION 2. Recommendations

84 The Commission respectfully recommends that the Bloomington Common Council and City  
85 Administration:

86 (a) At minimum, reverse the decision made by the administration and continue the  
87 seasonal closure of Kirkwood Avenue to vehicle traffic during summer months,  
88 consistent with the intent of Ordinance 2025-02.

89 (b) Strongly consider taking measures in favor of the permanent, year-round closure of  
90 Kirkwood Avenue to motor vehicle traffic between at least the Sample Gates and the  
91 Courthouse Square, with provisions for emergency and limited service/delivery vehicle  
92 access, and without including provisions that would allow the city administration to  
93 unilaterally end the program without the consent of the council.

94 (c) Study Church Street in Burlington, Vermont; Pearl Street in Boulder, Colorado; and  
95 the Main Street Downtown Mall in Charlottesville, Virginia, as models for successful  
96 permanent pedestrian corridors in comparable university communities.

97 (d) Prioritize investment in permanent streetscape improvements, including planters,  
98 landscaping, shade structures, seating, and accessibility enhancements that would  
99 maximize the corridor's function as a public space.

100 (e) Move administration of the Kirkwood pedestrianization program from the Department  
101 of Economic and Sustainable Development to the Department of Planning and  
102 Transportation.

103 (f) Reframe the program from one of outdoor dining and economic development to one of  
104 public space and sustainable transportation.

105 (g) Repeal Section 7 of Ordinance 2025-02, which gives discretion to the City Engineer  
106 to unilaterally and permanently suspend the program.

107 (h) Cease framing the Kirkwood program in terms of parking revenue versus dining  
108 permit revenue and instead evaluate the program based solely on its contributions to  
109 public health, sustainable transportation, quality of life, and Bloomington's identity as a  
110 walkable community.

111 SECTION 3. Statement of Values

112 The Commission affirms that sustainable cities prioritize people over automobiles, especially in  
113 their most central public spaces, and that Bloomington's identity as a walkable, bikeable  
114 community should be reflected in the design of its most prominent and iconic pedestrian  
115 corridor.

116 SECTION 4. Transmittal

117 The Chair is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to all members of the Bloomington  
118 Common Council, to the Mayor, to the Director of Planning and Transportation, to the Director  
119 of Economic and Sustainable Development, to the City Engineer, to the Chair of the Board of  
120 Public Works, and to the Chair of the Transportation Commission.

121 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience  
122 upon this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Chair  
Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and  
Resilience

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129 *policy statements on behalf of the Executive Branch of the City of Bloomington.*

1  
2 Sponsor:  
3 Matt Austin

4 **RESOLUTION 2026-04**

5 **OPPOSING THE USE OF GLYPHOSATE IN BLOOMINGTON'S PUBLIC SPACES**  
6 **AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES**

7 WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington has committed to enhancing environmental  
8 sustainability, protecting public health, and promoting ecological resilience for its  
9 residents and future generations; and

10 WHEREAS, glyphosate, a chemical herbicide commonly used in agriculture and urban  
11 landscaping, has been identified as a potential carcinogen by the International  
12 Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and is classified as "likely to be  
13 carcinogenic to humans" (Group 2A); and

14 WHEREAS, numerous studies have linked the use of glyphosate to various adverse  
15 environmental effects, including soil degradation, loss of biodiversity, and harm to  
16 pollinators, aquatic life, and other non-target organisms; and

17 WHEREAS, the widespread use of glyphosate may lead to the development of  
18 herbicide-resistant weeds, necessitating even more toxic chemicals, which can  
19 create a cycle of environmental harm; and

20 WHEREAS, alternative methods of pest and weed control, such as integrated pest management  
21 (IPM), organic landscaping practices, and the use of native plants, offer effective,  
22 sustainable, and safer solutions for maintaining healthy ecosystems and public  
23 spaces; and

24 WHEREAS, neighboring municipalities and organizations around the country have  
25 successfully adopted policies to reduce or eliminate the use of glyphosate in  
26 public spaces, demonstrating the feasibility and effectiveness of such initiatives.

27 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BLOOMINGTON**  
28 **COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE, THAT:**

29 **SECTION 1. Opposition to Glyphosate Use**

30 The Commission formally opposes the use of glyphosate in all public spaces, city-managed  
31 properties, and public right-of-ways within the City of Bloomington, and encourages the City  
32 Council and other relevant entities to adopt policies that prohibit or restrict the use of glyphosate.

33 SECTION 2. Promotion of Alternatives

34 The Commission recommends the implementation of sustainable, non-toxic alternatives to  
35 glyphosate, including but not limited to integrated pest management, organic landscaping, and  
36 the use of native plants that require fewer chemical inputs.

37 SECTION 3. Public Education and Awareness

38 The Commission encourages the City of Bloomington to educate residents, businesses, and  
39 landscapers about the risks associated with glyphosate and to promote safer, more sustainable  
40 landscaping practices through workshops, public outreach, and partnerships with local  
41 environmental organizations.

42 SECTION 4. Ongoing Research and Review

43 The Commission will continue to monitor new research and developments related to glyphosate  
44 and other herbicides, and will periodically review and update its recommendations to ensure that  
45 the City's practices align with the latest science on public health and environmental  
46 sustainability.

47 SECTION 5. Transmittal

48 The Chair is directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to the Common Council, the  
49 Department of Public Works, and any other relevant stakeholders for their consideration and  
50 action.

51 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience  
52 upon this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Chair

Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and  
Resilience

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59 *policy statements on behalf of the Executive Branch of the City of Bloomington.*



**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**  
**COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

# **Officer Elections 2026**

**March 10, 2026**

# Officer Elections 2026

## Rules & Requirements

	Rule	Description
Bloomington Municipal Code	<b>BMC § 2.08.020(9)</b> Officers	Each board, commission and council shall elect a chairperson, secretary, treasurer, and such other officers as may be necessary. Such entity may appoint a non-member to serve as secretary.
	<b>BMC § 2.08.020(10)</b> Duties of the Secretary	The secretary of each board, commission or council shall keep for every meeting written minutes in which the results of any vote are recorded and, when appropriate, specific findings of facts and conclusions are set forth.
BCOS Bylaws Article II (Officers)	<b>BCOS Bylaws II.1</b> Officer Election	<p>Officers shall be elected by vote of the commission members annually at the Annual Meeting [March] by a majority of the current membership of the Commission.</p> <p>It shall be the right of the Commission to decide annually on the Structure of the Executive Office(s).</p> <p>The Commission will decide by vote at each annual election whether to elect officers as Co-Chair or Chair and Vice Chair.</p>
	<b>BCOS Bylaws II.2</b> Officer Eligibility	All officers shall be members of the Commission and no member shall hold more than one office at a time.
	<b>BCOS Bylaws II.3</b> Officer Term	<p>Officers shall be elected to serve until the next Annual Meeting.</p> <p>Their terms of office shall begin at the close of the meeting at which they are elected.</p> <p>Officers may serve more than one term.</p> <p>Officers shall deliver to their successors all accounts, papers, records, and other Commission property within two weeks of their expired term.</p>

# Officer Elections 2026

Let's Vote!

Officer	Duties
<b>Chairperson</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prepare the agenda for all meetings</li><li>• Preside over all meetings (except when she/he designates VC)</li><li>• Distribute agenda and related documents no less than 48h prior to meeting</li><li>• Organize and submit the Commission's Annual Report in coordination with other members of the Executive Committee</li></ul>
<b>Co-Chairs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Newly-elected Co-Chairs shall decide how to divide responsibilities enumerated for the Chair and Vice Chair. All responsibilities must be explicitly assigned to an individual, and the list of responsibilities shall be presented in written format to the Commission by the next regular meeting</li></ul>
<b>Vice-Chairperson</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Serve as Chairperson in their absence</li><li>• Perform duties that may be delegated by Chairperson</li><li>• Aid Chairperson on request</li><li>• Post notice of vacancies of the Commission's Advisory Committee positions and the requirements thereof</li><li>• Perform such other duties applicable to the office as prescribed by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Commission</li><li>• In absence of Secretary, serve as or appoint a Member to serve as Secretary</li></ul>
<b>Secretary</b> per BMC § 2.08.020(10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keep, for every meeting, written minutes in which the results of any vote are recorded and, when appropriate, specific findings of facts and conclusions are set forth.</li></ul>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Facilitate the preparation of the annual budget as required by BMC § 2.08.020(13)</li><li>• Facilitate the efforts of commission members to identify funding sources in order to execute the strategic goals of the commission</li></ul>