

# City of Bloomington, Indiana Common Council Agenda and Notice: Regular Session

Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.  
Council Chambers (#115), City Hall  
401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, IN 47404

The meeting may also be accessed remotely [here](#).<sup>1</sup>

- 1. Roll Call**
- 2. Agenda Summation**
- 3. Minutes for Approval**
- 4. Reports** (a maximum of twenty minutes is set aside for each part of this section)
  - A. Council Members
    1. Letter to Redevelopment Commission from Common Council Members
  - B. The Mayor, City Clerk, City Offices, and City Boards and Commissions
    1. Commission on Aging 2025 Annual Report
    2. Commission on the Status of Women 2025 Annual Report
  - C. Council Committees
  - D. Public\*
- 5. Appointments to Boards and Commissions**
- 6. Legislation for First Readings**
  - A. Ordinance 2026-13 to Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Regarding Loans Between Utilities
  - B. Ordinance 2026-14 to Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Administration and Personnel" to Require Councilmember Sponsorship of Legislation Under Chapter 2.04
- 7. Legislation for Second Readings and Resolutions**
  - A. Ordinance 2026-12 To Amend Title 15 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Vehicles and Traffic" to Seasonally Provide a Carless Kirkwood
- 8. Additional Public Comment\*** (a maximum of twenty-five minutes is set aside for this section)
- 9. Council Schedule**
- 10. Adjournment**

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<sup>1</sup><https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/85430493413?pwd=mxvHApXvxeQdaX5ctXn29laqb2P4Se.1> Meeting ID: 854 3049 3413 Passcode: 979376

Bloomington City Council meetings can be watched on the following websites:

- [Community Action Television Services \(CATS\)](https://catstv.net/)<sup>2</sup>
- [City's YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/@citybloomington)<sup>3</sup>

[Materials for this meeting](https://bloomington.in.gov/council/meetings/2026)<sup>4</sup> are available on Council's website.

\*Members of the public may speak on matters of community concern not listed on the agenda at one of the two public comment opportunities. Individuals may speak at one of these periods, but not both. Speakers are allowed up to three minutes.

The City of Bloomington is committed to providing equal access to information. If you encounter difficulties accessing material in this packet, please contact the Bloomington Common Council Office at [council@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:council@bloomington.in.gov) or 812-349-3409 and provide your name, contact information, and a link to or description of the document or web page with which you are having problems.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://catstv.net/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/@citybloomington>

<sup>4</sup> <https://bloomington.in.gov/council/meetings/2026>

June 3, 2026

Redevelopment Commission (RDC)  
City of Bloomington  
c/o Housing and Neighborhood Development  
401 N. Morton St.  
Bloomington, IN 47404

Dear Members of the Redevelopment Commission:

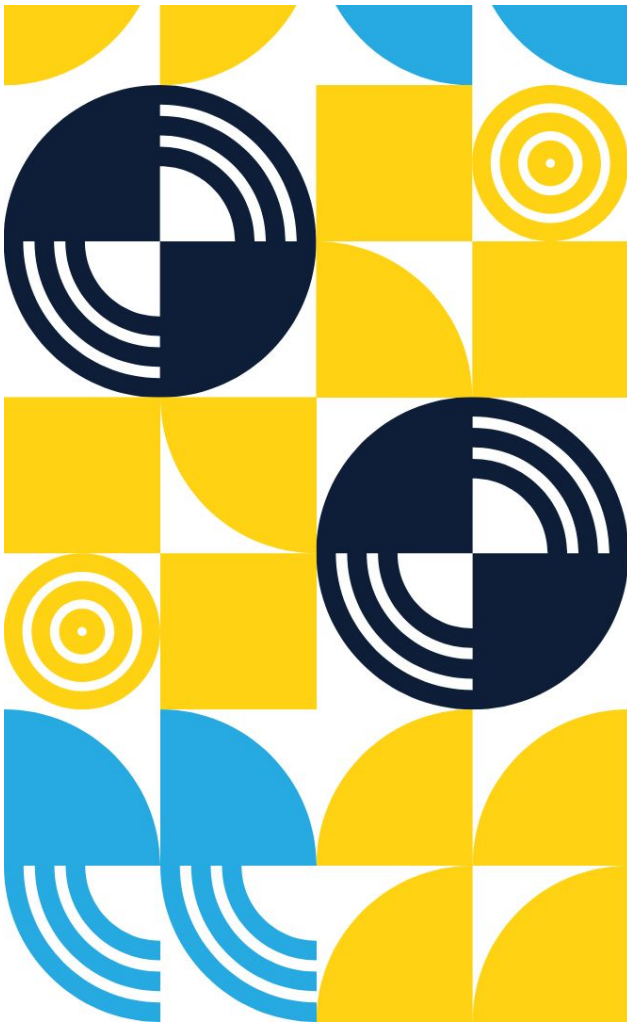
We, the undersigned members of the Bloomington Common Council, are writing to clarify our position regarding the disposition of the College Square site, currently owned by the RDC and identified by the Capital Improvement Board (CIB) as the ideal location for a new convention center hotel. In a May 6, 2024 letter to you signed by 8 of 9 council members, and a Dec. 15, 2025 letter to you signed by 4 council members, members of the council communicated to you that the College Square property should only be used for the convention center project (including a new hotel) if the RDC recouped the monies it spent acquiring the site, which came to a total of \$6,895,000.

We hereby clarify that we are not opposed to the RDC's disposition of the site for an amount less than the purchase price if significant public benefit can be gained, such as the preservation and/or provision of low-income housing. At the same time, we maintain our position that significant additional public funds should not be contributed to the convention center project.

A simple land swap of the College Square property for the significantly less valuable parcels the County recently turned over to the CIB to the south of the current convention center would be a city subsidy for the project which we previously stated should rely, from the city side, only on Food & Beverage Tax revenues. However, a swap of a portion of the College Square site for CIB-held land of approximately equal value, so that the convention center hotel could be built at the most desirable location, would be a fiscally responsible disposition of taxpayer-funded property. The remainder of the College Square site could be sold for an appropriate economic development project. If the RDC took ownership of the CIB-owned parcels to the south, we would encourage you to consider the proposal recently submitted by Homes 4 All and the BDSA to maintain and expand low-income housing, commercial, and social space at Seminary Square.

Creative solutions should be considered to maximize public benefit and also facilitate the best location for a convention center hotel.

Sincerely,



# Commission on the Status of Women

**PREPARED BY:**

**Marissa Parr-Scott**

Program Specialist, Community and

Family Resources Department

[marissa.parrscott@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:marissa.parrscott@bloomington.in.gov)

812-349-3468

## 2025 Annual Report

# Charge and Focus

## Commission on the Status of Women (BCSW)

- Nine-member volunteer commission

### Focus areas

- Legislation
- Community Partnership
- Communication

### Mission

- Advocating for equity and improving opportunities for all who embrace a female identity

### Core approach

- Understanding the needs of women
- Monitoring and reviewing policies and legislation
- Engaging with the community
- Strategic partnerships
- Youth development programming



## 2025 Commissioners

- Landry Culp, Chair
- Nicole Bennett
- Hannah Chudleigh
- Shayla George
- Ashley Hazelrig
- Patty Moon
- Stephanie Samaras
- Carrie Stillions
- Cee-Cee Swalling



# 2025 Highlights & Impact

## 2025 Women's History Month Luncheon

- 267 attendees
- 18 exhibit tables
- 3 Women's Achievement Award winners (Young Woman of the Year, Emerging Leader, and Woman of the Year)

## Women's Market

- Third annual Women's Market
- 30 local artists, vendors and organizations
- Successful sales
- Hundreds of attendees

## Young Women's Leadership Summit

- 115 Middle and High School student attendees
- 3 sessions led by local women focusing on overcoming barriers
- Overwhelmingly positive feedback with lots of ideas for next year



# Goals, Opportunities, & Direction

## 2026 Women's History Month Luncheon

- Explore new grant opportunities
- Increase advertising and marketing efforts

## 2026 Women's Market

- Invest in advertising
- Explore Space Opportunities and Extend hours

## 2026 Young Women's Leadership Summit (YWLS)

- Continue to engage in intentional planning of the Young Women's Leadership Summit
- Structure the 2026 event around major themes identified in the 2025 feedback survey.

## Continued Implementation of BCSW Subcommittees

- *Communications*: Continue monitoring local opportunities, legislation, and events that impact women in our community, ensuring timely and transparent communication.
- *Legislative*: Maintain an active focus on legislative issues affecting women at the local, state, and national levels, and will make informed recommendations to support women in Bloomington.
- *Community Partnerships*: Strengthen partnerships with local individuals and organizations to better understand community needs and foster lasting relationships with women and allies.

# Get Involved with BCSW

## **We invite you to engage with us:**

- Attend monthly BCSW meetings
- First Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. the in Hooker Conference Room, City Hall

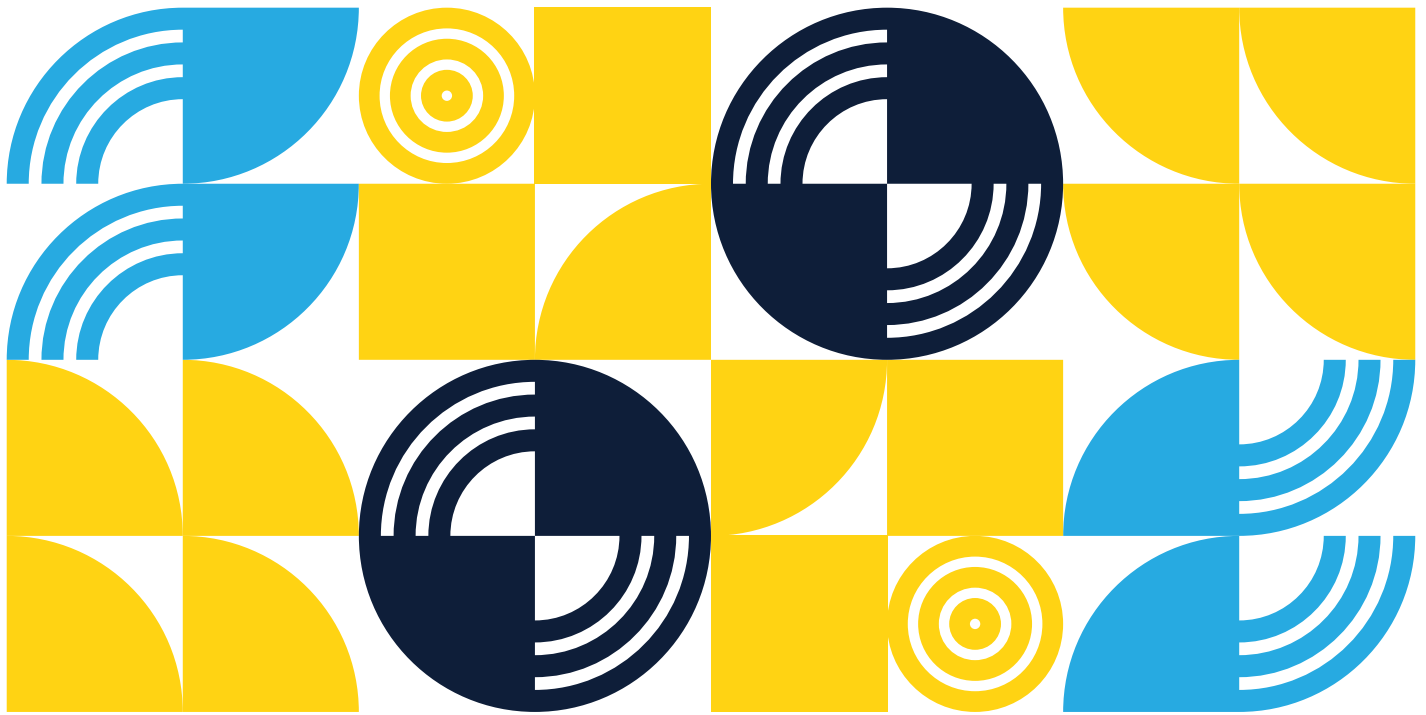
## **Participate in upcoming events and programs:**

- Attend Women's History Month Luncheon
- Nominate someone for a Women's Achievement Award
- Attend the Women's Market

## **Support our mission:**

- Volunteer as a mentor or partner
- Collaborate on community initiatives
- Share resources and expertise





# Commission on the Status of Women

# 2025 Annual Report

PREPARED BY :

**Marissa Parr- Scott**

Liaison, Commission on the Status of  
Women

[marissa.parrscott@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:marissa.parrscott@bloomington.in.gov)

812-349-3468

**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**

401 N Morton Street,  
Suite 260

Bloomington, IN, 47403

[BLOOMINGTON.IN.GOV/BOARDS/STATUS-OF-WOMEN](http://BLOOMINGTON.IN.GOV/BOARDS/STATUS-OF-WOMEN)



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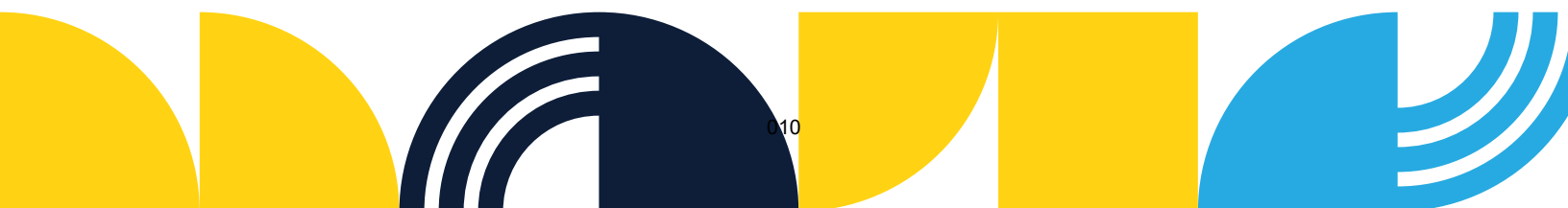
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Commission Staff

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# Commission on the Status of Women

## Message from the Chair

Landry Culp

In 2025, the Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women (BCSW) had the opportunity to provide space to encourage connection, build community, and celebrate the women who give their time and their mental, physical and emotional energy to deeply impact women and girls in our community.

### Success with Subcommittees

In the BCSW's second year of establishing subcommittees, the model is proving successful for expanding the amount of intentional work we're able to accomplish in a year.

In 2025, the Legislative subcommittee reported and tracked bills that directly impacted women. That subcommittee worked with the Communications sub-committee to craft and send a "Thank you" letter to Shelli Yoder for her work with SB275; a letter of support for SB191; and a letter of opposition for SB289. In learning the most effective way to express support / opposition, the BCSW had Taylor Brown break down the processes for bills and how we, as a commission, could ensure our voice was heard. (spoiler alert! After going through this process of sending letters and learning processes from Taylor, the BCSW was able to successfully set ourselves up to send 10 letters for 2026.)

### Success with Events

As will be detailed below, the BCSW had another successful year setting up and executing three large events. For each, we are able to bring together local women and / or girls to build community, encourage connection, and celebrate wins.

1. The first was the Women's History Month Luncheon in March where we had 267 attendees and 18 exhibit tables. We also recognized our 2025 Women's Achievement Award winners: Jael Davis (Young Woman of the Year), Amy Oelsner (Emerging Leader), Woman of the Year, (Danielle Benedek.)
2. Then we had the Women's Market where the BCSW welcomed 30 vendors into City Hall with no direct cost to the commission.
3. Our final event of the year was the Young Women's Leadership Summit where we had 115 attendees and three presenters.

After a successful 2025, the BCSW is looking forward to repeating everything outlined above that went well while taking lessons learned to improve them as we make our way through 2026.



**"There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish."  
– Michelle Obama**

# Commission on the Status of Women

## Commission Purpose

### 2025 Annual Report

The Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women is dedicated to advocating for equity and improving opportunities for all who embrace a female identity. We do this by understanding the needs of women, monitoring and reviewing policies (on the federal, state and local levels), encouraging legislation and engaging with our community. Our commission welcomes everyone who identifies as a woman and those who feel our women-focused environment aligns with their values.

The Women’s History Luncheon, Women’s Market, and Young Women’s Leadership Summit all align with the statement above in identifying and assessing needs of local women and providing opportunities to intentionally engage.



Ashley Hazelrig, Hannah Chudleigh, Shayla George, Landry Culp (back row, from left)  
Carrie Stillions, Patty Moon, Nicole Bennett, Stephanie Samaras, Marissa Parr-Scott (front row, from left)

# Commission on the Status of Women

■ Chair

## Organizational Overview

### 2025 Annual Report



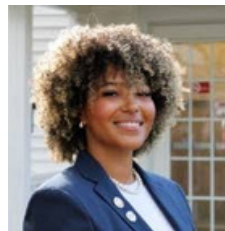
Nicole Bennett  
Chair, Legislative Subcommittee  
Appointed by: Mayor  
Term Expires: 1/31/2028



Hannah Chudleigh  
Chair, Communications Subcommittee  
Appointed by: Mayor  
Term Expires: 1/31/2027



Landry Culp  
Commission Chair  
Appointed by: Common Council  
Term Expires: 1/31/2027



Shayla George  
Appointed by: Common Council  
Term Expires: 1/31/2028



Ashley Hazelrig  
Chair, Community Partnerships  
Subcommittee  
Appointed by: Mayor  
Resigned: January 2026



Patty Moon  
Appointed by: Common Council  
Term Expires: 1/31/2028



Stephanie Samaras  
Appointed by: Common Council  
Resigned: January 2026



Carrie Stillions  
Appointed by: Mayor  
Term Expires: 1/31/2027



Cee-Cee Swalling  
Appointed by: Mayor  
Term Expires: 1/31/2028



Marissa Parr-Scott  
Staff Liaison

The Commission on the Status of Women meets on the first Thursday of each month from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. in the Hooker Conference Room (Room # 245) at City Hall.

# Commission on the Status of Women

## Organizational Overview

### 2025 Annual Report

#### Communications Committee

Chair: Hannah Chudleigh

Members: Patty Moon, Landry Culp

#### **Committee Goal:**

To inform the Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women of opportunities, legislation, and local happenings that impact women in our community.

#### **Relevant Bylaws:**

- Code 2.23.060, Section 1a: To identify the needs of women in the City, the available resources and services meeting those needs, and the gaps in existing services.
- Code 2.23.060, Section 1d: To issue publications, educational materials, and the results of research, legislative reviews, and investigations in order to educate the community about the aims and goals of the Commission.

#### **2025-2026 Objectives:**

1. Develop a quarterly communication plan focused on transparency, community-building, and uplifting the voices of women.
2. Identify and implement opportunities to promote the Commission's work, expanding public awareness and engagement.
3. Collaborate with the Community Partnerships Subcommittee to highlight and celebrate the contributions of women in Bloomington.
4. Assess and address gaps in services and support systems that impact local women.

## Commission on the Status of Women

### Organizational Overview

2025 Annual Report

#### Legislative Committee

**Chair:** Nicole Bennett

**Members:** Stephanie Samaras, Cee-Cee Swalling

#### **Committee Goal:**

To stay informed and responsive to legislative issues affecting women at the local, state, and national levels in order to make intentional decisions on how the Commission can support and inform women in Bloomington.

#### **Relevant Bylaws:**

- Code 2.23.060, Section 1b: To monitor and review federal, state, and local policy for its impact on City women, and to make recommendations to the Human Resources Department to ensure women's equity.
- Code 2.23.060, Section 1c: To stimulate and encourage legislation for the development of human resources that particularly benefit women in the City and the State.

#### **2025–2026 Objectives:**

- Create position documents for Commission vote on whether to support or oppose significant legislation affecting women.
- Identify participation opportunities for Commission members to engage in legislative advocacy or events.
- Explore legislative pathways the Commission can use to create direct, positive impact on the lives of women in Bloomington.
- Develop educational programming aligned with the needs identified by both the Legislative and Communications Committees.

#### **Planned Events:**

- Educational programming aligned with legislative priorities and community needs.

## Commission on the Status of Women

### Organizational Overview

#### 2025 Annual Report

#### Community Partnerships Committee

Chair: Ashley Hazelrig

Members: Carrie Stillions, Shayla George

#### **Committee Goal:**

To collaborate with local individuals and organizations to understand the needs of women and allies and build meaningful relationships that support community well-being.

#### **Relevant Bylaws:**

- Code 2.23.060, Section 1e: To establish and maintain a close working relationship with, and support the efforts of, the Bloomington Human Rights Commission, the Bloomington League of Women Voters, and other relevant city and county commissions, including the Monroe County Women's Commission (MCWC).
- Code 2.23.060, Section 1f: To maintain close liaison with other women's commissions throughout the state; state women's advocacy groups; and other local, state, or federal programs that address the needs, challenges, and opportunities of women

#### **2025–2026 Objectives:**

1. Build and strengthen relationships with community members and organizations that serve or impact women.
2. Maintain a continual awareness of local events and initiatives relating to women, and identify ways for the Commission to engage and provide support.
3. Deepen collaboration and partnership between the BCSW and the Monroe County Women's Commission (MCWC).

#### **Planned Events:**

- Women's History Month (WHM) Luncheon
- Women's Market
- Educational Programming (as identified)
- Young Women's Leadership Summit (YWLS)

## Commission on the Status of Women

### Key Achievements and Impact

#### 2025 Annual Report

#### 2025 Women's History Month Luncheon

- The 2025 Women's History Month Luncheon took place on Thursday, March 27th at the Monroe Convention Center. The national Women's History Month theme was *"Moving Forward Together! Women Who Educate and Inspire Generations."* Our keynote speaker was Tamara Winfrey Harris, president of the Women's Fund of Central Indiana.

#### Successful Women's Market

- The third annual Women's Market was held at City Hall inside the atrium and Council Chambers on Saturday, August 23rd. We had 30 local artists and vendors register, and of those who responded to our feedback survey, most of them reported that they made between \$300-\$400.

**"Fantastic keynote address and awards presentation. Thank you for bringing together women in our community!"**

-Event feedback, Women's History Month Luncheon

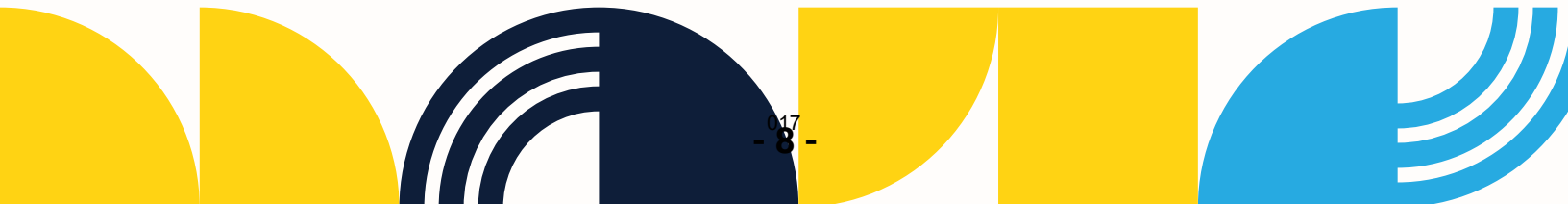
**"Being with other female vendors is so empowering - thank you for giving us the space to share"**

-Event feedback, Women's Market



#### Young Women's Leadership Summit

- The BCSW hosted its second Young Women's Leadership Summit in the fall of 2025. The summit took place on Thursday, November 20th in Council Chambers, and was attended by 115 middle and high school students from MCCSC and Lighthouse Christian Academy, which is our highest attendance to date. The theme was *"Unstoppable: Rising UP and Dreaming BIG."*



## Commission on the Status of Women

### Program and Project Highlights

#### 2025 Annual Report

The 2025 Women’s History Month Luncheon took place on Thursday, March 27th at the Monroe Convention Center. The national Women’s History Month theme was “Moving Forward Together! Women Who Educate and Inspire Generations.” Our keynote speaker was Tamara Winfrey Harris, president of the Women’s Fund of Central Indiana.

The Commission also recognized the annual Women’s Achievement Award Winners - 2025 Woman of the Year, Danielle Benedek; Emerging Leader, Amy Oelsner, and Young Woman of the Year, Jael Davis.



Jael Davis, Danielle Benedek, and Amy Oelsner (from left),  
2025 Women's Achievement Award winners



Tamara Winfrey Harris, Keynote Speaker

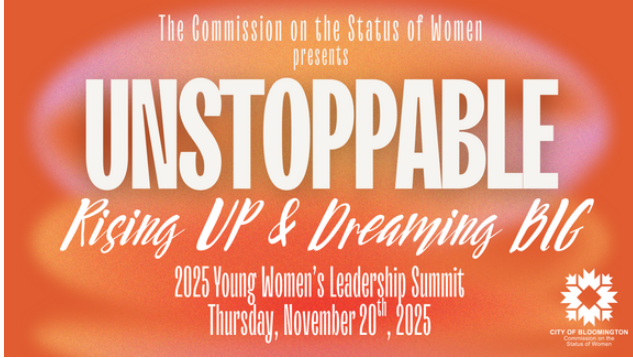
The 2025 Women’s History Month Luncheon had a total of 267 attendees, and had 18 exhibit tables from local organizations and businesses such as Sojourn House, My Sister’s Closet, Middle Way House and Tandem. Between sponsorships, ticket sales and exhibit table registrations, the BCSW was able to generate revenue of \$15,055. The total cost of the event was \$16,705.68, resulting in a net shortfall of \$1,650.68.

Rising event costs continue to be a challenge, but the BCSW plans to look into various grant opportunities to help offset the burden.

# Commission on the Status of Women

## Program and Project Highlights

### 2025 Annual Report



The 2025 Young Women's Leadership Summit was by far our largest yet, with 115 students attending from area middle and high schools including Bloomington High School North, Bloomington High School South, Batchelor Middle School, Jackson Creek Middle School, Tri-North Middle School, and Lighthouse Christian Academy.

This year featured three different sessions led by women who have overcome tremendous barriers - and who never stopped rising up and dreaming big. The first session was led by Aniyah Birdsong, a former Miss Indiana USA and current Senior Director at Eli Lilly. She spoke of losing her mother at a young age, and the various barriers she encountered as a young woman in a STEM field.

The second session was led by BCSW commissioner Shayla George, who shared her story about growing up in the foster care system, and navigating her way through obtaining a higher education, now studying for her master's degree. She also allowed the students to ask their own questions, or ask her to speak on a certain topic. This session gave us a lot of ideas for 2026!

The final session of the day was led by Josefa Madrigal, a former Indiana University police officer, former City of Bloomington Hispanic and Latine Affairs Coordinator, and current social worker with HealthNet and mother of two. Josefa talked to the students about growing up on the south side of Chicago in an abusive home, and being the child of immigrants. She spoke of putting herself through college, and having her first son as a young single mother. Her story of resilience really resonated with the students, and was a terrific way to end the afternoon.



Students at the Young Women's Leadership Summit, "UNSTOPPABLE: Rising UP and Dreaming BIG"



# Commission on the Status of Women

## Strategic Goals and Initiatives

### 2025 Annual Report

#### 2026 Women's History Month Luncheon

- To help offset the cost of the Women's History Month Luncheon in 2026, we will be looking into different grant opportunities. We also plan to increase our advertising and marketing efforts for ticket sales.

#### 2026 Women's Market

- The BCSW will increase advertising and signage for the 2026 Women's Market, and will explore ideas on how to increase the number of vendors we can bring into the space, potentially expanding to outside. Based on feedback from last year, we will also be considering extending the hours of the market from 10:00 a.m. - 3 p.m.

#### 2026 Young Women's Leadership Summit (YWLS)

- The Commission tries to be very intentional in the planning of the Young Women's Leadership Summit, and relies heavily on feedback from the students about what they want and need from the summit. The BCSW will structure the 2026 event around major themes identified in the 2025 feedback survey.

#### Continued Implementation of BCSW Subcommittees

- Communications: The Commission will continue monitoring local opportunities, legislation, and events that impact women in our community, ensuring timely and transparent communication.
- Legislative: The Commission will maintain an active focus on legislative issues affecting women at the local, state, and national levels, and will make informed recommendations to support women in Bloomington.
- Community Partnerships: The Commission will strengthen partnerships with local individuals and organizations to better understand community needs and foster lasting relationships with women and allies.



# Commission on the Status of Women

## Community and Stakeholder Engagement

### 2025 Annual Report

The Commission would not have been able to accomplish its work in 2025 without the support of key partners and collaborators.

- The City of Bloomington
- SCCAP
- Cook Medical
- Monroe County Women's Commission
- Girl Scouts of Central Indiana
- Indiana University
- Ivy Tech Community College Bloomington
- Local non-profit organizations serving the needs of women (Girls, Inc. of Monroe County, Middle Way House, Tandem Birthing Center, Monroe County NOW, All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center, My Sister's Closet)
- Local businesses (PizzaX, Bloomingfoods)
- Buskirk-Chumley Theatre
- Monroe Convention Center

BCSW has been given support by a number of City departments, namely the Community and Family Resources Department. The Commission is also supported by the Office of the Mayor, Office of the Clerk, and Parks and Recreation.



## **Commission on the Status of Women**

### **2025 Financial Review - Donors and Sponsors**

2025 Annual Report

#### **Community Support and Program Funding**

##### **Women's History Month Luncheon**

City of Bloomington Community and Family Resources  
Department - \$2,000

City of Bloomington Office of the Clerk - \$1,500

City of Bloomington Office of the Mayor - \$1,000

Cook Medical - \$1,000

South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP) - \$1,000

Girls, Inc. of Monroe County - \$500

##### **Young Women's Leadership Summit**

Pizza X/One World Catering - 20 pizzas (we purchased  
additional pizzas at a discounted rate)

Bloomingfoods - \$200

Ivy Tech - \$1,000

South Central Community Action Program - \$1,000

**Commission on the Status of Women**

**2025 Financial Review - Expenditures and Revenues**

2025 Annual Report

**Expense/Revenue - Women’s History Month Luncheon**

EXPENSE	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Markey’s Rental & Staging (Monroe Convention Center)	Audio/visual tech support	\$5,140
Monroe Convention Center	Event Equipment	\$150
Monroe Convention Center	Food	\$6,120.00
Monroe Convention Center	Food (Tea/Coffee Station)	\$25.00
Monroe Convention Center	Space Rental	\$1,575.00
Monroe Convention Center	Service Charge	\$1,229.00
Blue Flower Arts, LLC (Tamara)	Keynote Speaker	\$2,106.68
Abell Nursery	Plant Delivery	\$150.00
Award Center	Award Plaques	\$210
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,705.68</b>
REVENUE	EVENT	AMOUNT
Sponsorships	WHM Luncheon	\$6,800.00
Exhibits	WHM Luncheon	\$405.00
Ticket sales	WHM Luncheon	\$7850.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,055.00</b>

**Commission on the Status of Women**

**2025 Financial Review - Expenditures and Revenues**

2025 Annual Report

**Expense/Revenue - Young Women’s Leadership Summit**

EXPENSE	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Sam’s Club - Lunch Snacks	Food	\$162.59
Kroger - Fruit and Juice	Food	\$56.26
Pizza X - Lunch	Food	\$234.99
Jimmy Johns - Lunch	Food	\$251.70
Amazon	Summit Prizes	\$821.78
MCCSC	Transportation	\$544.80
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,072.12</b>
REVENUE	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
SCCAP	Sponsorship	\$700
<u>Bloomingfoods</u>	Donation	\$200
Ivy Tech	Sponsorship	\$1000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,900.00</b>

**Call to Action**

2025 Annual Report

# Get Involved!

To stay in touch with the BCSW and to receive email communication, opt-in here:

[https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/a46Te  
g6/BCSW](https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/a46Te<br/>g6/BCSW)

For volunteer or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Marissa at [marissa.parrscott@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:marissa.parrscott@bloomington.in.gov)

**City of Bloomington**  
**Commission on the Status of Women**

**Contact Us**

2025 Annual Report

# Thank you!

Join the Commission on the Status of Women for our monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Hooker Conference Room (Room #245).



**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**  
Commission on the  
Status of Women

Website:  
[bloomington.in.gov/boards/status-of-women](http://bloomington.in.gov/boards/status-of-women)

Email:  
[marissa.parrscott@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:marissa.parrscott@bloomington.in.gov)

Number: 812-349-3468

Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/BloomingtonWomen](http://www.facebook.com/BloomingtonWomen)



# Commission on Aging

**PREPARED BY:**

**Marissa Parr-Scott**

Program Specialist, Community and  
Family Resources Department

[marissa.parrscott@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:marissa.parrscott@bloomington.in.gov)

812-349-3468

## 2025 Annual Report

# Charge and Focus

## Commission on Aging

- Nine-member volunteer commission

## Focus areas

- Resources
- Health and Wellness
- Housing
- Transportation
- Social Services
- Recreation

## Mission

- Improve public awareness of the senior/aging community
- Celebrate accomplishments and encourage programming
- Explore issues and concerns of older adults



## The Commission on Aging Senior Living 101 Seminar

Presented by Commission on Aging Commissioners:  
Dayna Thompson, Dementia Educator, IU Health Bloomington  
Sandra McGow, Director of Community Engagement, Bell Trace

Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 - 7:00 P.M.

City Hall, Council Chambers

401 N. Morton St, Bloomington, IN

### Topics Include

- ✓ Independent Living
- ✓ Assisted Living
- ✓ Memory Care
- ✓ Skilled Nursing
- ✓ Home Health
- ✓ Hospice

Registration is free, but space is limited! Register at [bton.in/senior](https://bton.in/senior) or by calling 812-349-3468



## 2025 Commissioners

- Dayna Thompson, Chair
- Rob Council
- Rob Deppert
- Susan Fleener
- Linda Hall
- David Jennings
- Sandra McGow
- Wendy Rubin
- Danielle Willis



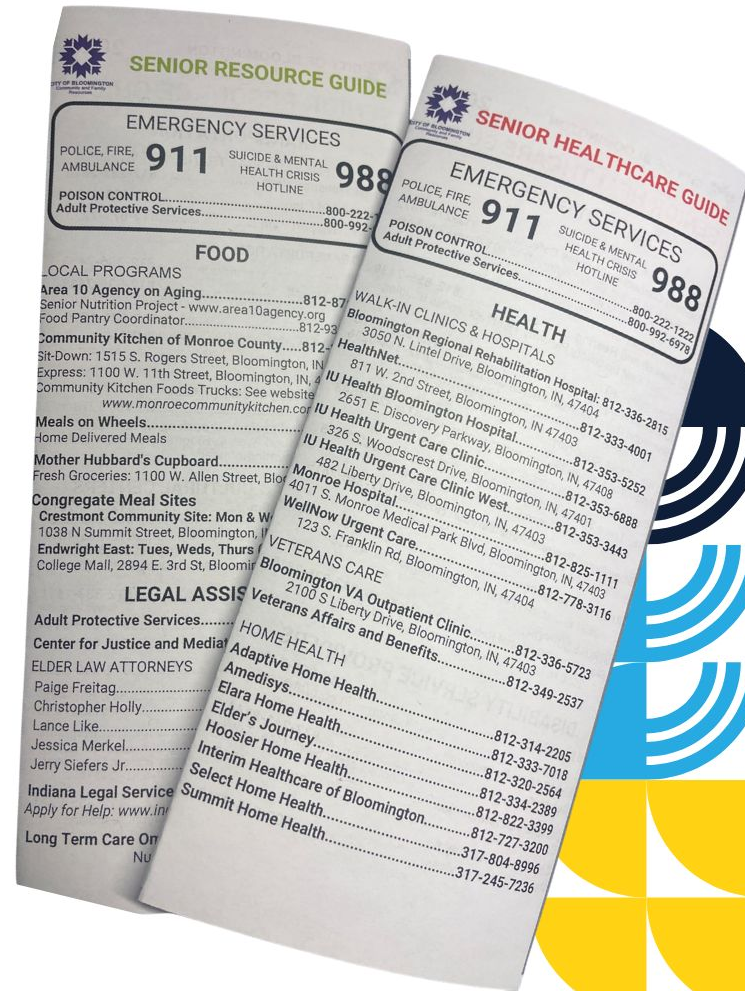
# 2025 Highlights & Impact

## Senior Resource Guide 2.0

- Created in 2023
- Split into two guides in 2025.
  - The Senior Healthcare Guide
    - Resources specifically geared toward healthcare (support groups, disability service providers, memory care, home health, etc.)
  - Senior Resource Guide
    - General resources for things like housing, transportation, recreation and financial assistance.

## Senior Living 101

- In early 2025, Commissioners Sandra McGow and Dayna Thompson worked together to create a seminar called Senior Living 101.
- Topics for the seminar included Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care, Skilled Nursing, Home Health and Hospice.



# Get Involved with COA

## We invite you to engage with us:

- Attend monthly Commission on Aging meetings
- Second Monday of each month at 3:00 p.m. in the McCloskey Conference Room, City Hall

## Participate in upcoming programs:

- Dementia Friendly Training
- Senior Living 101 Seminar

## Support our mission:

- Volunteer as a mentor or partner
- Collaborate on community initiatives
- Share resources and expertise



# Goals, Opportunities, & Direction

## **Maintain the Senior Resource and Senior Healthcare Guides**

- Update the Senior Healthcare and Senior Resource Guides periodically throughout the year.

## **Senior Living 101**

- Host at least one Senior Living 101 session
- Advertise the recorded session
- Offer the Senior Living 101 Seminar to interested parties at off-site locations.

## **Dementia Friendly training**

- Offer Dementia Friendly training to interested City staff in 2026

## **Aging and the Arts**

- Highlight local senior artists in the City of Bloomington display case during November 2026

## **Dementia Friendly Bloomington**

- Remain in collaboration with Dementia Friendly Bloomington and to continue supporting its efforts

## **Senior Center**

- Continue to advocate for and support ideas of how to create a permanent Senior Center in collaboration with other community stakeholders

## **Transportation**

- Continue to advocate for and support ways to improve transportation for seniors in our community

# Get Involved with COA

## We invite you to engage with us:

- Attend monthly Commission on Aging meetings
- Second Monday of each month at 3:00 p.m. in the McCloskey Conference Room, City Hall

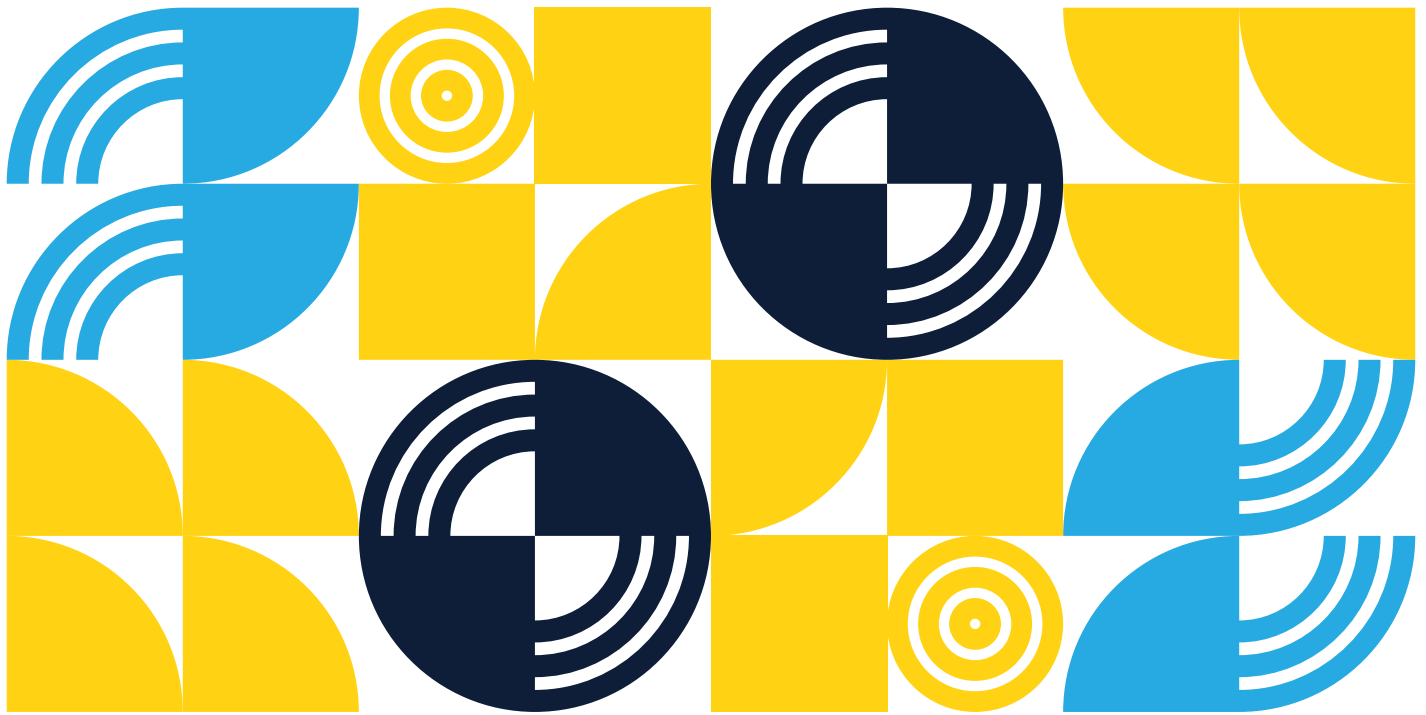
## Participate in upcoming programs:

- Dementia Friendly Training
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## Support our mission:

- Volunteer as a mentor or partner
- Collaborate on community initiatives
- Share resources and expertise





# Commission on Aging

# 2025 Annual Report

[BLOOMINGTON.IN.GOV/BOARDS/AGING](https://www.bloomington.in.gov/boards/aging)

**PREPARED BY :**

**Marissa Parr- Scott**

Liaison, Commission on Aging  
[marissa.parrscott@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:marissa.parrscott@bloomington.in.gov)

812-349-3468

**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**

401 N Morton Street,  
Suite 260  
Bloomington, IN, 47403



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# Commission on Aging

## Message from the Chair

Dayna Thompson

Over the past year, our Commission on Aging has continued its commitment to supporting older adults in our community with dignity, respect, and opportunity. As Chair, I am proud to share this annual report highlighting the progress we have made together and the work that still lies ahead.

The work reflected in this report demonstrates the power of partnership and civic engagement. Whether through advocacy initiatives, educational programs, outreach efforts, or public forums, our commission remains focused on improving quality of life for older adults and creating a community where people can age with independence and purpose.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to my fellow commissioners, municipal staff, partner organizations, and community members who contributed their time, expertise, and compassion throughout the year. Your dedication continues to make a lasting difference.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to addressing emerging needs while building on the momentum of this year's achievements. Together, we can continue creating an age-friendly community that supports residents at every stage of life.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

Sincerely,

Dayna Thompson

Chair, Bloomington Commission on Aging



# Commission on Aging

## Commission Purpose

### 2025 Annual Report

The Commission on Aging serves as a catalyst for improving public awareness of the senior and aging community. The Commission works in collaboration with diverse community members and organizations to build bridges, open dialogue, celebrate accomplishments, encourage programming, and explore issues and concerns of older adults. The intent is to promote solutions to the problems and challenges and celebrate the contributions of Bloomington's older citizens.



### Purpose and Duties:

Address concerns of seniors in health and wellness, housing, transportation, employment, social services and recreation; encourage the development of programs of particular benefit to senior citizens; and serve as a catalyst to promote positive public and private remedies to the multi-faceted challenges confronting seniors in our community and the resulting effects on the entire community.

# Commission on Aging

■ Chair

## Organizational Overview

### 2025 Annual Report



Rob Council  
Appointed by: Common Council  
Term Expires: 1/31/2027



Robert Deppert  
Appointed by: Common Council  
Term Expired: 1/31/2026



Susan Fleener  
Appointed by: Mayor  
Term Expired: 1/31/2026



Linda Hall  
Appointed by: Mayor  
Term Expires: 1/31/2027



David Jennings  
Appointed by: Common Council  
Term Expires: 1/31/2027



Sandra McGow  
Appointed by: Mayor  
Term Expires: 1/31/2028



Wendy Rubin  
Appointed by: Common Council  
Term Expires: 1/31/2028



Dayna Thompson  
Commission Chair  
Appointed by: Mayor  
Term Expires: 1/31/2028



Danielle Willis  
Appointed by: Mayor  
Term Expires: 1/31/2027



Marissa Parr-Scott  
Staff Liaison

### Commission Summary:

The Commission on Aging is composed of nine members, with five appointments by the Mayor, and four from the Common Council. Commission members must be residents of Monroe County. Preference for appointments are given to people with expertise in, or representing, one or more of the following areas: senior issues, health and wellness, recreation, employment, social services, transportation and affordable housing.

## Commission on Aging

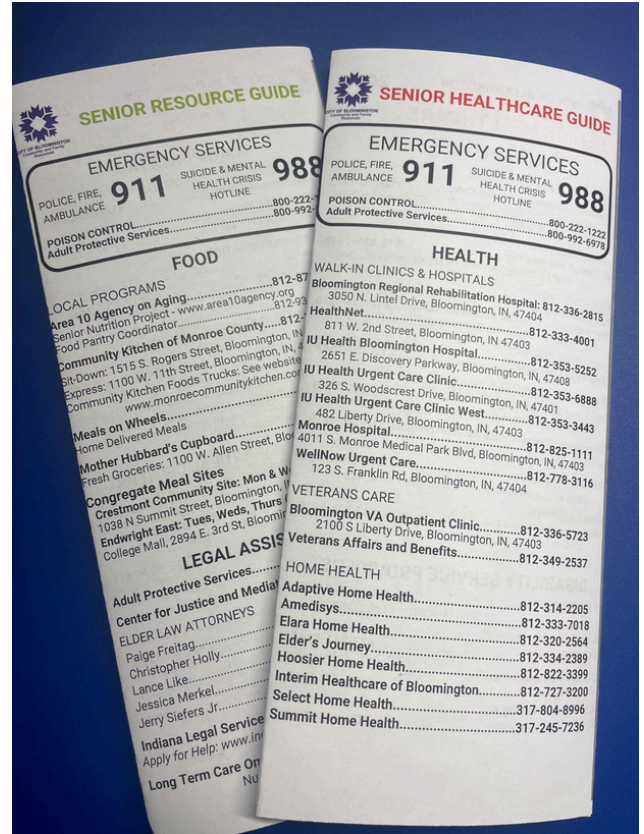
### Key Achievements and Impact

#### 2025 Annual Report

##### Senior Resource Guide 2.0

- The Senior Resource Guide, which was created in 2023, grew so much in the past couple years, that it was split into two guides in 2025. The Senior Healthcare Guide is now resources specifically geared toward healthcare (support groups, disability service providers, memory care, home health, etc.), while the Senior Resource Guide covers more general resources for things like housing, transportation, recreation and financial assistance. Splitting the original guide into two has allowed us to share a wider variety of resources without changing the convenience of a printable guide.

Both guides are available on the Commission on Aging webpage at: <https://bloomington.in.gov/boards/aging>



#### The Commission on Aging **Senior Living 101 Seminar**

Presented by Commission on Aging Commissioners:  
Dayna Thompson, Dementia Educator, IU Health Bloomington  
Sandra McGow, Director of Community Engagement, Bell Trace

- Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 - 7:00 P.M.
- City Hall, Council Chambers
- 401 N. Morton St, Bloomington, IN

##### Topics Include

- ✓ Independent Living
- ✓ Assisted Living
- ✓ Memory Care
- ✓ Skilled Nursing
- ✓ Home Health
- ✓ Hospice

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##### Senior Living 101

- In early 2025, Commissioners Sandra McGow and Dayna Thompson worked together to create a seminar called Senior Living 101.
- Topics for the seminar included Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care, Skilled Nursing, Home Health and Hospice.

## Commission on Aging

### Program and Project Highlights

#### 2025 Annual Report

One of the Commission on Aging's biggest projects for 2025 was revamping the Senior Resource Guide. We utilized a request form that local businesses and service providers could use to submit resource information, and quickly realized we had more resources than could fit into one guide. We now have one guide specifically for healthcare resources, and the other for general resources. Based on feedback, we kept the same printed, double sided format for both. The guides are distributed to local offices, service providers, and local organizations, who can also access them and print them from our webpage.



We also held our very first Senior Living 101 Seminar in May 2025. This in-person seminar was hosted at City Hall in Council Chambers, and had 10 attendees. After the in-person seminar, we decided to record the session so we could also share it electronically. We have found that this seminar is particularly helpful to caregivers of aging family members as they navigate the ever changing housing and healthcare needs of their loved one.

## Commission on Aging

### Strategic Goals and Initiatives

2025 Annual Report

#### **Maintain the Senior Resource and Senior Healthcare Guides**

The Commission on Aging will continue to update the Senior Healthcare and Senior Resource Guides periodically throughout the year.

#### **Senior Living 101**

The Commission on Aging will host at least one Senior Living 101 session this year. We will also more widely advertise the recorded version of the session, and hope to be able to include a link to it on our webpage. The COA is also available to bring the Senior Living 101 Seminar to interested parties at off-site locations.

#### **Dementia Friendly training**

The COA would like to offer Dementia Friendly training to interested City staff in 2026

#### **Aging and the Arts**

In November 2026, the Commission on Aging will highlight local senior artists in the City of Bloomington display case

#### **Dementia Friendly Bloomington**

The Commission on Aging intends to remain in collaboration with Dementia Friendly Bloomington and to continue supporting its efforts

#### **Senior Center**

The Commission will continue to advocate for and support ideas of how to create a permanent Senior Center in collaboration with other community stakeholders

#### **Transportation**

The Commission will continue to advocate for and support ways to improve transportation for seniors in our community



## Commission on Aging

### Community and Stakeholder Engagement

2025 Annual Report

The Commission on Aging strongly values its partnerships and collaborations with the following groups:

- Area 10 Agency on Aging
- WTIU
- IU Health Bloomington
- City of Bloomington
- Bloomington Transit
- Bloomington Blue Zones Initiative (BloomingZones Initiative)
- Dementia Friendly Bloomington



## **Commission on Aging**

### **2025 Financial Review - Expenditures**

2025 Annual Report

#### **Expenditures**

\$40.43 Candy for the 50+ Expo exhibit table

#### **Revenue**

None

#### **Key Financial Supporters**

City of Bloomington Community and Family Resources  
Department

## Commission on Aging

### Call to Action

2025 Annual Report

# Get Involved!

For more information on initiatives supported by the Commission on Aging, please visit the links below:

Dementia Friendly Bloomington, please visit:  
<https://www.dfindiana.org/>

Global Blue Zones Project, please visit:  
<https://www.bluezones.com/>

BloomingZone Initiative, please visit:  
<https://www.facebook.com/BloomingZoneInitiative>

For volunteer or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Marissa at  
[marissa.parrscott@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:marissa.parrscott@bloomington.in.gov)

## **Commission on Aging**

### **Contact Us**

2025 Annual Report

# **Thank you!**

The Commission on Aging invites the community to join us for our monthly meetings, on the second Monday of each month, from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. at City Hall in the McCloskey Conference Room (Room #135).



**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**  
Commission on Aging

Website:  
[bloomington.in.gov/boards/aging](http://bloomington.in.gov/boards/aging)

Email:  
[marissa.parrscott@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:marissa.parrscott@bloomington.in.gov)

Number: 812-349-3468

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CoA4U](http://www.facebook.com/CoA4U)



## Staff Memo

**To:** City Council  
**From:** Katherine Zaiger, Matt Havey, and Christopher Wheeler  
**Date:** June 3, 2026  
**Subject:** Ordinance 2026-13 to Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Regarding Loans Between Utilities

---

City of Bloomington Utilities (CBU), by and through its Utilities Service Board, wishes to have an ordinance passed that adds a new section to Title 2, Chapter 2.24 of the Bloomington Municipal Code that follows Indiana Code Section 8-1.5-3-11 which allows for municipally owned utilities to make loans between themselves.

Occasionally the City of Bloomington Waterworks may wish to borrow money from the City of Bloomington Sewageworks, or vice versa, and in order to allow for loans such as this to be made between the two utilities, the City must first enact an ordinance that allows for the creation of a cash reserve fund in each utility in which such monies can be loaned as between the utilities. These loans will provide desirable flexibility within the two utilities to ensure that each utility continues to meet its service obligations in between rate cases as necessary.

On April 20, 2026, the Utilities Service Board unanimously passed a resolution recommending that the Common Council adopt the proposed ordinance, a copy of which is attached to the Ordinance as Exhibit A.

CBU Staff recommends adoption.

Fiscal Impact Statement:

CBU does not believe there will be a fiscal impact to the City.

## **Ordinance 2026-13 to Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Regarding Loans between Utilities**

### **Preamble**

Whereas, the City of Bloomington (the “City”), has previously established and constructed and now owns and operates, through its Utilities Service Board (the “Board”), a waterworks system for the public water supply to the City, its inhabitants, and other customers (the “Waterworks”), in accordance with the provisions of Indiana Code 8-1.5, as amended, through the City of Bloomington Utilities Department (“CBU”);

Whereas, the City has previously established and constructed and now owns and operates, through the Board, a sewage works utility system for the City and its inhabitants (the “Sewage Works”), in accordance with the provisions of Indiana Code 36-9-23, as amended, through the CBU;

Whereas, CBU would like to have the flexibility to manage funds in accordance with I.C. § 8-1.5-3-11 through the establishment of a cash reserve fund through which one utility may loan money to the other utility on an as needed basis;

Whereas, I.C. § 8-1.5-3-11 provides CBU with this flexibility as long as the Common Council adopts an ordinance authorizing the establishment of a cash reserve fund from which such loans may be made;

Whereas, on April 20, 2026, the Utilities Service Board considered the proposed amendment to Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code, determined that the amendment is appropriate and necessary, and adopted a resolution recommending that the Common Council adopt the amendment in substantially the same form. A copy of the resolution is attached as Exhibit “A” together with all attachments and exhibits thereto;

Whereas, the proposed amendment to Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code has been duly considered by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington:

**Now, Therefore, Be It Ordained by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, That:**

**Section 1:** Section 2.24.091 shall be added to the Bloomington Municipal Code as a new section and shall read as follows:

The money belonging to each city owned utility shall be kept by the city controller, through the assistant director of finance for the Utilities Service Department, as separate funds as required by any bond ordinance or accounting procedures established by the Indiana State Board of Accounts. A Cash Reserve Fund is hereby created for each city owned utility, and the Utilities Service Department, by its Bloomington Utilities Service Board, shall hereafter carry the same on the records of each city owned utility by providing for monthly contributions or transfers to the Cash Reserve Fund of surplus earnings of each utility. The Cash Reserve Fund of one city owned utility may be used to make loans to another city owned utility for periods not to exceed five years, at any interest rate, subject to required approvals, if any, by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. The repayment of the loan and interest shall be returned to the Cash Reserve Fund.

**Section 2: Severability.**

If any section, sentence, or provision of this ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any of the other sections, sentences, or provisions or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

**Section 3: Effective Date.**

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption by the Common Council and approval by the Mayor.

**Passed**

Passed by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon the        day of June, 2026.

Signature of the Common Council President Isak Nti Asare

**Attestation of Bloomington City Clerk:**

Signature of the Bloomington City Clerk Nicole Bolden

**Presentation by Bloomington City Clerk:**

Presented by me to the Mayor of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana,  
upon this      day of June, 2026.

Signature of the Bloomington City Clerk Nicole Bolden

**Approval by the Mayor:**

Signature of the Mayor Kerry Thomson

**Synopsis:**

This ordinance follows I.C. § 8-1.5-3-11 and allows for the wastewater and water utilities to issue loans to one another through the creation of a cash reserve fund in each utility through which such loans can be funded.

**Exhibit "A"**

**UTILITY SERVICE BOARD OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, IN  
RESOLUTION 2026-10  
TO RECOMMEND AN AMENDMENT TO TITLE 2 OF THE BLOOMINGTON MUNICIPAL  
CODE REGARDING LOANS BETWEEN UTILITIES**

**Whereas**, the City of Bloomington (the "City"), has previously established and constructed and now owns and operates through its Utility Service Board (the "Board") a waterworks system for the public water supply to the City, its inhabitants, and other customers (the "Waterworks"), in accordance with the provisions of Indiana Code 8-1.5, as amended, through the City of Bloomington Utilities Department ("CBU"); and

**Whereas**, the City has previously established and constructed and now owns and operates, through the Board a sewage works utility system for the City and its inhabitants (the "Sewage Works"), in accordance with the provisions of Indiana Code 36-9-23, as amended, through the CBU; and

**Whereas**, CBU would like to have the flexibility to manage funds in accordance with I.C. 8-1.5-3-11 through the establishment of a cash reserve fund through which one utility may loan money to the other utility on an as needed basis; and

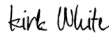
**Whereas**, I.C. 8-1.5-3-11 provides CBU with this flexibility as long as the Common Council has adopted an ordinance authorizing the establishment of a cash reserve fund from which such loans may be made; and


**Whereas**, CBU recommends adoption of this resolution as the necessary first step in seeking an ordinance by Common Council that amends Title 2 and authorizes the establishment of a cash reserve fund.

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** by the Utility Service Board of the City of Bloomington, Indiana, as follows:

1. The Board approves this Resolution and hereby recommends to the Common Council that it adopt the proposed language set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and by this reference incorporated herein.
2. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its adoption by the Board.

**Passed and Adopted on the 20th day of April, 2026.**

Signed by:  
  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
0DAD18ADB35049F...  
 Kirk White, President  
 Utilities Service Board

ATTEST:  
 Signed by:  
  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
527C092480964E6...  
 Katherine Zaiger, Director  
 City of Bloomington Utilities Department

## **Exhibit "A"**

2.24.091 - ADMINISTRATION OF UTILITY MONEYS; CASH RESERVE FUND; LOANS BETWEEN UTILITIES.

The money belonging to each city owned utility shall be kept by the city controller through the assistant director of finance for the Utilities Service Department as separate funds as required by any bond ordinance or accounting procedures established by the state's Board of Accounts. A Cash Reserve Fund is hereby created for each city owned utility, and the Utilities Service Department by its Bloomington Utilities Service Board shall hereafter carry the same on the records of each city owned utility by providing for monthly contributions or transfers to the Cash Reserve Fund of surplus earnings of each utility. The Cash Reserve Fund of one city owned utility may be used to make loans to another city owned utility for periods not to exceed five years, at any interest rate, subject to required approvals, if any, by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. The repayment of the loan and interest shall be returned to the Cash Reserve Fund.



## Council Staff Memorandum

To: Bloomington Common Council  
From: Bloomington Council's Office  
Date: May 29, 2026  
Subject: Overview and Considerations Regarding a Proposed Utility Cash Reserve Fund and Inter-Utility Loan Ordinance under Indiana Code § 8-1.5-3.11

---

### **Executive Summary**

Proposed Ordinance 2026-13 would amend Bloomington Municipal Code Chapter 2.24 governing utilities to add a section, which would establish a cash reserve fund and allow for inter-utility loans from that reserve fund. This action is authorized by Indiana Code Section 8-1.5-3-11. Indiana Code § 8-1.5-3-11 provides the legal framework for managing funds for municipal utility systems. Among other things, it allows for transfer of surplus utility earnings to the general fund, establishment of a cash reserve fund, and for loans from one utility to another owned by the same municipality when authorized by ordinance. Several municipalities already have established the requisite fund and authority to loan funds between their utilities.

The primary advantages are the potential flexibility it gives Utilities in managing its various functions, providing some cash flow stability, and enhancing emergency responsiveness. The risks and considerations are perceived equity among rate payers, financial transparency for the terms of the loan, and risks associated with repayment.

### **Background and Statutory Framework**

Ind. Code § 8-1.5-3-11 establishes how municipally owned utility funds may be managed and restrictions when excess utility revenues may be transferred or loaned. The statute is designed to ensure that utility revenues remain dedicated to utility purposes before being used for other governmental needs.

Relevant to the current proposal, the statute permits municipalities to authorize loans between municipally owned utilities from a cash reserve fund. Under this authority:

- Loans may only be made from the cash reserved fund;

- Loans may only be made to another municipally owned utility;
- The maximum term of the loan is five years; and
- Any principal and interest repayments must be returned to the reserve fund.

Ind. Code § 8-1.5-3-11(f).

There are other aspects of the statute as well. Generally, municipally-owned utility funds must be maintained separately from general municipal finance. The City may, with the approval of the Utilities Service Board transfer surplus earnings into the general fund. Transfers to the general fund may occur only through a cash reserve fund established by ordinance, and once all other obligations are met.

The statute defines surplus earnings as cash earnings remaining after provision for paying current obligations, including::

- Utility operating expenses
- Depreciation and replacement reserves
- Bond and interest sinking funds
- Retirement obligations
- Or any other legally required priority obligations

Ind. Code § 8-1.5-3-11(c).

Once a city has established a cash reserve fund by ordinance, the utilities shall provide for monthly contributions or transfer of surplus earnings to the fund. Ind. Code § 8-1.5-3-11(b).

The City may also appropriate reserve fund balances as “revenue in lieu of taxes,” but only the balance held within the reserve fund may be transferred, and only during the budget year in which those transfers were adopted. Transfers from other utility accounts or funds other than the cash reserve fund are prohibited. Ind. Code § 8-1.5-3-11(d).

This law also limits emergency transfers. If an emergency appropriation becomes necessary, the council may transfer additional funds from the cash reserve fund, but only from accretions (deposits) since the preceding June 30 (in other words, if an emergency transfer is needed between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027, then the eligible funds would be those added after June 30, 2026).

### **Examples of Indiana Municipalities Using Similar Authority**

Other cities in Indiana have adopted ordinances authorizing inter-utility loans or utility reserved fund mechanisms under this statute, including:

- Columbus, IN
- Huntingburg, IN
- Advance, IN
- Rising Sun, IN

In Columbus, they have limited the term of the loans to the statutory maximum of five years and capped interest rates at no more than 5%.<sup>1</sup>

### **Potential Benefits of the Fund**

1. Fund flexibility. Permitting inter-utility loans allows for CBU to weather any short-term emergencies or income fluctuations with its cash reserves.
2. Control and Retention of Repayment and Interest. The loan program allows the Utilities Service Board to set the terms of any loans, as opposed to traditional bond holders or outside lenders. Further, it allows for the reinvestment of interest on the loans back into CBU's cash reserves.
3. Emergency management. It is also possible that such a loan program would allow for rapid response to any infrastructure emergencies or disasters that require immediate liquidity.

### **Potential Risks and Considerations**

1. Financial Stability. A utility may appear to have surplus reserves during normal operating periods, but unexpected expenses may quickly alter financial conditions. Outstanding inter-utility loans may deplete cash reserves of a particular utility, which would then require outside financing for any major infrastructure failures, regulatory compliance mandates, emergency repairs, or unexpected revenue decline.
2. Ratepayer Fairness and Cross-Subsidization Concerns. Ratepayers generally expect utility charges to support the service for which they are paying. Residents paying for water or wastewater services may object if reserve funds generated by one utility are perceived as subsidizing the operational or capital problems of another utility. Even if loans are repaid, public perception may frame the

---

<sup>1</sup> See Columbus Municipal Code [Section 3.20.110](#), which establishes a cash reserve fund for its water utility and permits loans from the water utility cash reserve fund to Columbus's sewage disposal works.

arrangement as one customer group financing another utility's obligations, raising concerns about transparency and equity.

3. Transparency. Inter-utility loans may be perceived as a means to avoid the traditional public financing process. Unlike external borrowing through bonds or bank financing, internal utility loans generally do not require the same level of public hearing, disclosure, or third-party repayment analysis.



## Council Sponsor Memo

To: Common Councilmembers  
Mayor Kerry Thomson  
Clerk Nicole Bolden

From: Councilmember Isabel Piedmont-Smith  
District 1 representative  
Chair, Committee on Council Processes

Date: May 25, 2026

Re: Ordinance 2026-14: To Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Administration and Personnel" to Require Councilmember Sponsorship of Legislation Under Chapter 2.04

I am writing to provide context and reasoning behind Ordinance 2026-14, to Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Administration and Personnel" to Require Councilmember Sponsorship of Legislation Under Chapter 2.04. The idea to require Councilmember (CM) sponsorship of each item of legislation was brought to the Committee on Council Processes by committee member Matt Flaherty last year. The idea was discussed by the Committee this spring, and I drafted ordinance language that was approved unanimously by the Committee (consisting of CMs Zulich, Stosberg, Daily, and myself) on May 21.

Councilmembers already have the ability to sponsor and propose legislation they have developed themselves. The requirement that a CM sponsor each item of legislation brought forward by the administration makes sense fundamentally from the perspective of the Council's legislative function. Legislative bodies in the US Congress and the Indiana General Assembly require members of those bodies to sponsor legislation, even if it comes from the executive branch. Many Class 2 cities in Indiana also require sponsorship by one or more members of the legislative branch (for example Evansville, Carmel, Terre Haute, Fishers, and Hammond) while others require legislation to be brought forward by a Council Committee (for example South Bend and Fort Wayne).

On a practical level, CM sponsorship of legislation would ensure that at least one member of the legislative body reviews an ordinance or resolution before it is finalized. Councilmembers necessarily have a different perspective on legislation than the Mayor's administration does, and gaining that perspective earlier can lead to fewer questions, misunderstandings, and possible amendments after the legislation officially comes to the Council for review. Two recent examples come to mind of ordinances that had trouble at the Council level, trouble that could have been avoided had a Councilmember reviewed the documents beforehand.

- 1) Ordinance 2025-19 and Ordinance 2025-20 proposed changes to non-consensual towing and vehicle storage fees in Chapters 15 and 4 of Bloomington Municipal Code, respectively. When Ordinance 2025-19 was first discussed on December 3, there were many questions from

Councilmembers who were concerned about the proposed changes and an unusual back-and-forth discussion with members of the public who owned or worked for towing companies. There were so many unanswered questions that the Council moved the ordinance to a third reading, and failed to even introduce the related Ordinance 2025-20 for second reading that evening.

- 2) Ordinance 2025-44, which would have amended city code Chapter 10 “Stormwater” to increase the septic hauler rate from \$0.02 to \$0.08/gallon. The legislation generated so many questions from CMs that it felt like we had a crash course on septic hauling taught by CBU staff and waste haulers who attended to give public comment. In the course of the discussion, so many issues were revealed that the Council voted 0-7 against the ordinance and asked for the requested fee increase to be brought back after the questions could be answered.

The goal of CM sponsorship is improved communication between the Mayor’s administration and members of the Council. I cannot ensure that having a CM sponsor would have prevented the confusion and extended discussion engendered by the above items of legislation, but I am sure that there would have been a greater degree of clarity than there was.

I did speak with Deputy Mayor Gretchen Knapp about this legislation, and she expressed concern that it would be a burden for staff. This feedback was considered by the Committee on Council Processes, and we felt that staff could actually benefit from the change. The CM sponsor(s) could flag areas where greater explanation is required or details that may spark controversy BEFORE the public meeting when the legislation is discussed. Staff would be less likely to be caught off-guard by unanticipated questions and concerns. As to how to reach out to CMs to request sponsorship, the Deputy Mayor did not foresee a problem in that sense.

Finally, I believe this legislation will also benefit the public, who rely on the transparency of legislation and staff memos to understand what their city representatives are doing. CM sponsorship can only add to that transparency.

NOTE: I did exempt the annual budget legislation and any appropriation ordinances outside the annual budget process from the new requirement of CM sponsorship. Since only the Mayor can initiate expenditures, it seemed inappropriate to require a CM to sponsor such legislation. By “annual budget legislation,” I mean the following:

Appropriation Ordinances:

- Civil City budgets
- City of Bloomington Utilities budgets
- Bloomington Public Transportation corporation budget

Salary Ordinances:

- Police and Fire personnel
- Appointed, non-union, and AFSCME-represented personnel
- Employees of the Clerk’s Office
- Elected officials

**Ordinance 2026-14 to Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled “Administration and Personnel” to Require Councilmember Sponsorship of Legislation Under Chapter 2.04**

**Preamble**

Whereas, the Common Council, as the legislative body for the City of Bloomington, Indiana, should work closely with the Mayor’s administration to bring forward legislation;

Whereas, currently legislation brought forward by the Mayor’s administration does not require sponsorship or other explicit support from any individual Councilmember;

Whereas, the Council finds that requiring a Councilmember to sponsor all items of legislation would improve communication between the Mayor’s administration and the Council;

Whereas, the Council finds that legislation brought forward by the Mayor’s administration sometimes does not include sufficient context and/or explanation in layperson’s terms of the issue(s) at hand, and the input of a Councilmember sponsor could clarify language and context;

Whereas, the Common Council of many Class 2 cities in the State of Indiana require sponsorship of legislation by a Councilmember or a Council committee; and

Whereas, the Committee on Council Processes unanimously approved this ordinance at its meeting of May 21, 2026;

**Now, Therefore, Be It Ordained by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, That:**

**Section 1: Section 2.04.270 “Ordinances and resolutions – Filing, copies and agendas” shall be amended to add the following language at the beginning of the section:**

No proposed ordinance or resolution shall be considered by the council unless sponsored by a member of the council. Exceptions: No councilmember sponsorship shall be required for the annual budget-related legislation, nor for appropriation ordinances brought forward outside the annual budget process.

**Section 2: Severability.**

If any section, sentence or provision of this ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any of the other sections, sentences, provisions or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

**Section 3: Effective date.**

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect on July 1, 2026.

**Passed**

Passed by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Isak Nti Asare

Signature of Common Council President, City of Bloomington

Attestation of Bloomington City Clerk:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicole Bolden  
Signature of Clerk, City of Bloomington

Presented by me to the Mayor of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicole Bolden  
Signature of Clerk, City of Bloomington

Signed and approved by me upon this upon the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kerry Thomson  
Signature of Mayor, City of Bloomington

**SYNOPSIS**

This ordinance sponsored by Councilmember Piedmont-Smith adds a new paragraph to the Bloomington Municipal Code section 2.04.270 to require Councilmember sponsorship of each item of legislation, except for the annual budget legislation and appropriation ordinances.

# **ORDINANCE 2026-14**

## **FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT<sup>1</sup>**

Ordinance 2026-14 is not expected to have a major impact on existing City finances including, but not limited to revenues, expenditures, and any new debt obligations.

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with Bloomington Municipal Code Section 2.04.290, all proposed legislation must be accompanied by a statement describing the impact of that legislation on the city's finances.

**Bloomington Common Council Ordinance No. 2026-12 - To Amend Title 15 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Vehicles and Traffic" to Seasonally Provide a Carless Kirkwood**

**Preamble**

Whereas, the City of Bloomington originally implemented the seasonal conversion of certain blocks of Kirkwood Avenue to a carless street to support local businesses, enhance pedestrian safety, and foster community vibrancy; and

Whereas, the Common Council, in Resolution 2025-05, signaled a commitment to a predictable seasonal schedule, and still seeks to provide long-term certainty to businesses, residents, and visitors regarding the summer street closure, allowing them to plan, adapt, and invest with confidence; and

Whereas, the Common Council recognizes that while daily visit rates may fluctuate due to construction or weather, the documented increase in "dwell time" suggests that a pedestrian-oriented Kirkwood Avenue creates a higher quality of engagement and a more meaningful "third space" for the community; and

Whereas, this Ordinance seeks to harmonize the administration's goal of a "comprehensive vision" with the public's desire for a car-less Kirkwood, ensuring that the street remains a safe, inclusive, and vibrant destination during the peak visitor months of April through November; and

Whereas, by formalizing this closure within Title 15, the City establishes a transparent framework for governance, allowing the of the City Engineer to manage emergencies while maintaining a consistent and predictable standard for the public; and

Whereas, the City Council is committed to activating Kirkwood Avenue as a premier destination for commerce, pedestrians, civic engagement, and community life, fostering economic vitality and social interaction; and

Whereas, this ordinance does not preclude the City of Bloomington from advancing additional investments in Kirkwood Avenue as outlined in the Transportation Plan and Safe Streets for All Plan, ensuring future improvements align with the city's vision for a vibrant, accessible, and multimodal corridor.

**Be It Ordained by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, That:**

**Section 1.**

Title 15, entitled "Vehicles and Traffic," is amended to add the following chapter:

**15.65 – STREETS AND ALLEYS CLOSED TO VEHICULAR TRAVEL.**

Upon those streets and parts of streets described in Schedule X, attached hereto and made a part hereof, motor vehicular traffic shall be prohibited on such dates as are indicated therein. In case of emergency, the City Engineer may temporarily restore motor vehicle traffic as authorized in 15.08.040 - Temporary, experimental or emergency traffic regulations. If the City Engineer proposes to restore motor vehicular traffic for more than 90 days (consecutive days, or cumulative over the span of the annual closure), the restoration must be approved by the City Council.

**SCHEDULE X**

Restricted Streets

Street	From	To	Closure Period
E Kirkwood Ave.	S Walnut St.	180' east of S Walnut St.	April 1 to November 15, annually
E Kirkwood Ave.	S Grant St.	S Dunn St.	April 1 to November 15, annually
E Kirkwood Ave.	S Dunn St.	S Indiana Ave.	April 1 to November 15, annually

Upon those alleys and parts of alleys described in Schedule Y, attached hereto and made a part hereof, motor vehicular traffic shall be prohibited on such dates as are indicated therein. In case of emergency, or other practical difficulties, the City Engineer may temporarily restore motor vehicle traffic as authorized in 15.08.040 - Temporary, experimental or emergency traffic regulations. If the City Engineer proposes to restore motor vehicular traffic for more than 90 days (consecutive days, or cumulative over the span of the annual closure), the restoration must be approved by the City Council.

**SCHEDULE Y**

Restricted Alleys

Alley-Between	From	To	Closure Period
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E Kirkwood Ave. and E 4thSt.	S Walnut St	~100' east of S Walnut St.	Annually
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**Passed**

Passed by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

Isak Nti Asare  
President, Bloomington Common Council

**Attestation of Bloomington City Clerk:**

Nicole Bolden  
Clerk, City of Bloomington

**Presentation by Bloomington City Clerk:**

Presented by me to the Mayor of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026:

Nicole Bolden  
Clerk, City of Bloomington

**Approval by Mayor**

Signed and approved by me upon this upon the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026:

Kerry Thomson  
Mayor, City of Bloomington

## **Synopsis**

This ordinance seeks to codify streets and alleys in Bloomington that disallow vehicular traffic. Specifically, this ordinance codifies the seasonal carless schedule of specific blocks of Kirkwood Avenue. With this ordinance, businesses and residents can expect a permanent seasonal carless Kirkwood, allowing businesses the predictability to invest in outdoor infrastructure for guests. The City Administration has provided valuable operational feedback in its 2026 memorandum, identifying important challenges regarding infrastructure, sanitation, public safety, and accessibility that naturally arise as temporary programs transition toward permanent city fixtures. With that, this ordinance aims to provide the necessary legal and budgetary certainty for the City to move beyond "incomplete solutions" and invest in more permanent infrastructure, such as more ADA-compliant features and high-quality seating, recommended by staff.

## **ORDINANCE 2026-12**

### **FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT<sup>1</sup>**

The legislation is not expected to have a major impact on existing City finances including, but not limited to revenues, expenditures, and any new debt obligations. For sections of closed Kirkwood Avenue, there would be some revenue impact for the loss parking meters along the street up to \$13 per day (Monday through Saturday, excluding holidays), per meter.

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with Bloomington Municipal Code Section 2.04.290, all proposed legislation must be accompanied by a statement describing the impact of that legislation on the city's finances.

## Memorandum

**To:** City Council

**From:** Gretchen Knapp, Deputy Mayor; Andrew Cibor, City Engineer; Margie Rice, Corporation Counsel; Jane Kupersmith, Director of Economic & Sustainable Development; Adam Wason, Director of Public Works

**Re:** Ordinance 2026-12

**Date:** 5/26/2026

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This memorandum outlines the Administration’s position regarding Ordinance 2026-12 on Kirkwood Avenue. The Administration does not support this ordinance, but should Council decide to proceed, we offer some suggestions to minimize harm.

The main driver of our position is community feedback. We believe that the majority of our community does not want this decision. The feedback we hear is that Kirkwood already functions successfully as a vibrant, mixed-use, walkable, accessible destination for dining, nightlife, festivals, and events. It also already receives significant City attention, investment, programming, and maintenance resources relative to other areas of Bloomington. Closing the street does not enhance these benefits, but rather creates new problems: negative public safety impacts, reduced accessibility, economic equity issues for businesses, and operational challenges. We believe the current plan of parklets with targeted, smaller activations as well as keystone events like Taste and Pridefest has greater public benefit and fewer downsides.

### A Note on Code

At its May 20 meeting, Council noted they had questions about the Administration’s legal position on the ordinance. The Administration respects the Council’s legislative authority as well as the statutory authority given to others. While the proposed ordinance addresses Kirkwood specifically, it codifies a process for the closure of roads and alleys in general. It is likely not Council’s intention to have to weigh in on every short-term temporary closure of a City road (for example, for Utilities work, Street paving, Duke Energy projects, and so on)—that is a perhaps unintended outcome. Short-term closures are currently approved statutorily (and efficiently) by the Board of Public Works. In addition, per state and local code (BMC 2.02.100), the City Engineer, the

Transportation Commission, and the Board of Public Works should be involved in any street closure.

If Council intends only to close Kirkwood, we suggest the best place to do that is in Title 12, as the prior ordinance on this subject did, rather than Title 15, and to address sidewalk dining, parklets, and street space usage there. This is not a traffic ordinance per se, though it impacts traffic; it's about a vision for the broader use of a specific street. The Administration would gladly work with Council to draft a Title 12 ordinance, which we think would have a better outcome. Some recommendations follow.

## Suggested Amendments

The following recommendations are made in good faith to acknowledge the seriousness of Council's well-intended position and to request accommodations to real-world impacts of closure. As noted, we believe this legislation fits best in Title 12.

1. **Set the effectiveness date to begin in 2027, at the earliest**, and ideally after the planned 2027 study of Kirkwood Avenue. This legislation would impact existing or approved plans and investments that are already underway for 2026.
  - a. 100 block will have noisy construction with truck traffic all season, making the area inhospitable for 24/7 outdoor activity. The Buskirk-Chumley also advocates for drop-off access.
  - b. 200 block church leaders have repeatedly advocated in past years for an open block to accommodate parking and drop off for elderly members and others with limited mobility. First Christian Church can only access their private parking from Kirkwood.
  - c. 300 block City-supported activations are already planned for most Wednesdays until October, including Family Night Out on second Wednesday nights and a variety of other events.
  - d. Blocks will be sequentially closed throughout the summer to accommodate brick sidewalk repair (scheduled to end by July 31).
  - e. Extensive block closures are planned for Taste of Bloomington (August 1); Pridefest (August 22); and Lotus (October 1-4).
  - f. The 4th Street Festival (September 5-6) is planned for its final year on 4th Street. If Kirkwood is also closed, those safety and traffic plans will have to be reworked.
  - g. The IU Homecoming Parade (October 31 weekend) has been in planning for months; it would require Kirkwood to be closed to all vehicular traffic

except floats. If Kirkwood is closed to vehicles as part of Carless Kirkwood, planners will have to start from scratch.

2. **Shorten the closure period to mitigate public safety implications.** Past experience has shown that empty spaces invite negative activation, and it is impossible to activate the entire street with events, 24/7, for 8 months. Last year no businesses or organizations executed any activation beyond dining at 5 restaurants. Weather in April, May, and November is inconsistent. Public safety agencies have expressly communicated that it is essential to leave the street open to vehicles (no parking) during Little 500. The City has already invested in increasing activation this year, by hiring a consultant to plan the weekly events on Wednesdays that run to October. Once again, we've received limited partnership response: only 2 restaurants opted to participate. In short, experience has shown that if we build an empty space, not enough partners assist in filling it with events. A shorter time span decreases negative outcomes of empty streets.
3. **Limit which blocks to close to vehicles, and weigh accessibility and economic equity issues.** Consider how the legislation will give the executive branch flexibility to address, this year and in years to come, intermittent needs for construction and maintenance in the area and their impacts on traffic and public safety access. Consider how residents with limited mobility will access amenities along Kirkwood. How will restaurants that rely on delivery drivers, rather than outdoor dining, survive? What will be the legislative response or executive options when some businesses again say revenues declined as a result or, like the Bicycle Garage, move elsewhere?

## Suggested Process

Important roles and authorities are granted to both branches of government, and we hope the legislation will be mindful of both branches. Legislation affecting Kirkwood's availability to all has deep impacts on residents, businesses, nonprofits, and visitors. A good process can ensure the decision is defensible and based on local data, feedback, and experience. We suggest that the decision-making approach and process should include these steps.

1. **Listen to stakeholders.** Staff conducted extensive research and collected data that suggest there is not widespread public support for closure. If Council doesn't find that work credible, we suggest that Council collect its own formal data with residents; businesses on and close to Kirkwood; business associations (DBI, Kirkwood Business Association, The Greater Bloomington Chamber of

Commerce), churches and nonprofits; the Council for Community Accessibility; and City departments with expertise in public safety, economic development, sanitation, and transportation.

2. **Follow recommendations in foundational City documents and community studies.** Consider the Transportation Plan, which recommends a shared street. Read the 2026 Downtown Strategies study, which also recommended a shared street. Both of these involved community input. Consider whether lasting decisions should be made in advance of the 2027 Kirkwood corridor study.
3. **Propose the legislation for Title 12.** This avoids unintended consequences for other street closures and eliminates unnecessary conflicts over traffic authority.
4. **Send legislation to the Transportation Commission before a Council vote.** The Transportation Commission has planned a deliberation session for June 8. We understand this is cutting it close to Council’s final meeting before recess – another reason to work on this legislation for 2027. While there are many impacts beyond transportation, again, per state and local code (BMC 2.02.100), the City Engineer, the Board of Public Works, and the Transportation Commission should be involved in any street closure. There are significant parking and traffic routing issues to align with public safety and planned construction and maintenance affecting other closures in the area.
5. **Prepare for legislation to be presented to the Board of Public Works (BPW).** After the Council passes any legislation affecting the right of way, staff should take an implementation plan to the BPW for approval, given the statutory obligations of the City Engineer and BPW, and in order to protect the City from liability. Legislation should take into account BPW’s role and the questions and issues they’ll raise.

Thank you for your consideration. We believe that all parties want what is best for Bloomington, and while we don’t support this particular legislation, we do support creating a collaborative, exciting vision for Kirkwood’s future.