



**City of Bloomington
Common Council**

Legislative Packet - Addendum
(Issued on Wednesday, 23 September 2020)

Wednesday, 23 September 2020
Special Session
6:30 PM

Contained Herein:

- Revised Resolution 20-16
- Letter of support from Sustainable Development Committee

**Please see the notes on the [Agenda](#) addressing public meetings during the public health emergency
For a schedule of upcoming meetings of the Council and the City's boards and commissions, please consult the City's [Calendar](#).*

RESOLUTION 20-16

SUPPORTING THE PAINTING OF TWO BLACK LIVES MATTER STREET MURALS - ONE ON ELM STREET AND ONE AT A DOWNTOWN LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED

WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington previously expressed in Resolution 20-06, adopted on May 6, 2020, its commitment to promoting the health, safety, welfare and inclusiveness of all community residents, and acknowledged its responsibility to oppose, and aid in eradicating, systemic racism, racial bias and racial animus; and

WHEREAS, over the last several months, prompted by the killings of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Breonna Taylor in Louisville and Daniel Prude in Rochester, and by the cumulative effects of so many others before them, our country has been in turmoil, reeling from the horror of yet more of our Black and Brown family members, friends and citizens being killed brutally and unnecessarily while in government custody; and

WHEREAS, our community is far from immune to racial inequality and strife, and residents and others have been making their voices heard and demonstrating their pain and frustration at the continuing scourge of racism nationally and in our own community by marching in our streets and calling for all of us to do more; and

WHEREAS, governments may and regularly do engage in official government speech on important matters, and the City recognizes its obligation to condemn racism and inequality, and to stand in solidarity with organizations and individuals who share those sentiments; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Banneker Community Center Advisory Council have proposed two street murals that would involve the painting of the words “Black Lives Matter” on the public right of way with one mural on Elm Street in Bloomington and another at a downtown Bloomington location to be determined, and the Board of Parks Commissioners endorsed the concept at their July 28, 2020 meeting, and the Bloomington Arts Commission endorsed it at their August 12, 2020 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the City has funds available from the Black Y Brown Arts Festival, which was canceled due to the COVID pandemic, to pay an artist(s) to complete the mural; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington wants to reiterate its position in Resolution 20-06 that the City condemns all forms of bigotry, racism and hatred; and proudly stands for individual dignity, and against all those who would seek to propagate hate, fear and intimidation, or incite fear and violence targeting any human being; and

WHEREAS, the Council wholeheartedly endorses this use of public art to express its stated position and especially to support and honor a movement fighting to bring justice and equality to Black and Brown members of our community and beyond;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT;

The City of Bloomington endorses the painting of two Black Lives Matter murals - one on Elm Street in front of the Banneker Center, or at such other nearby location as the City and the Banneker Community Center Advisory Council agree is appropriate, and one at a downtown location to be determined, and supports the City's use of existing funds to pay the artist(s) hired to design and paint the mural. Further, the Council calls on the Board of Public Works to permit this use of a public right of way and join in this public display of support for our Black and Brown residents who have been fighting for justice and equality for far too long.

PASSED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this _____ day of _____, 2020.

STEPHEN VOLAN, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2020.

NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this _____ day of _____, 2020.

JOHN HAMILTON, Mayor
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

This resolution endorses the painting of two Black Lives Matter murals in the public right of way - one on Elm Street in Bloomington and one at a downtown Bloomington location to be determined, and calls on the Board of Public Works to permit this use of a public right of way for public art that supports the cause of anti-racism and promotes justice and equality for our Black and Brown residents and visitors.

Note: This resolution was revised after release in the legislative packet on September 18, 2020 and prior to introduction at the September 23, 2020 Special Session to reflect the possibility that more than one artist might be hired to complete the murals.



Office of the Common Council

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September 22, 2020

Ms. Susan Brehm
U.S. Economic Development Administration
Chicago Regional Office
230 S. Dearborn Street, Suite 3280
Chicago, IL 60604-1512

RE: Trades District Technology Center in Bloomington, IN

Dear Ms. Brehm,

As the chair of the **Bloomington Common Council's Sustainable Development Committee**, and on behalf of this committee, I write to you today in support of the City of Bloomington and the Bloomington Economic Development Corporation (BEDC) and their application to the Economic Development Administration to fund the proposed **Trades District Technology Center**.

The Sustainable Development Committee believes that this grant application is critical to the economic development and competitiveness of our region through the establishment of a tech-focused commercialization center with future-focused diverse employment options in technology and the provision of physical office space for growing companies.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant economic challenges in our region, as it has throughout the nation. As the home for a major university, however, Bloomington has felt this downturn especially keenly. In ordinary times, our region has depended heavily on robust tourism activity and the presence of 40,000+ students as primary drivers of our economy. As we look ahead to a post-COVID environment, the Trades District Technology Center will further diversify our employment base, accelerate the growth of the region's burgeoning technology sector, and allow us to further retain Indiana University student talent post-graduation in and around the region and state. In addition, the proposed placement of the Technology Center within one of Monroe County's four Opportunity Zones will stimulate additional private development within these important investment zones.

The City of Bloomington and its Redevelopment Commission and the BEDC will be excellent stewards of the Trades District Technology Center project, and I strongly believe that it will have a positive impact on the economic competitiveness of the region.

This grant application has my full support and that of the Common Council's Sustainable Development Committee. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sue Sgambelluri
Chair - Sustainable Development Committee
Bloomington Common Council