



Greater Ellettsville Area  
Chamber of Commerce  
CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY



The Greater Bloomington  
Chamber of Commerce

Dear Monroe County Government Leaders,

Thank you for your diligence in addressing the need for a new justice center in Monroe County and for the time you have invested in identifying the right location. Your decision will have long-lasting implications for Monroe County and, though we recognize that time is of the essence, respectfully ask that you consider an additional location option that has come to our attention.

Cowden Enterprises owns property at 3241 W. Woodyard Road in Bloomington that appears to meet the acreage requirements for the new justice center. The owners have expressed willingness to sell the property to Monroe County and have indicated that water, sewer, and electric infrastructure is available, adjacent to the property at the corner of Vernal Pike and Woodyard Road. The owners are willing to pay for a Phase 1 environmental study at the request of county leadership though there are no anticipated environmental concerns.

Leadership from our two local Chambers of Commerce toured the property recently. In addition to the points mentioned above, we think this property is a viable option for the new justice center for these reasons:

- **Fiscal responsibility of taxpayer dollars:** We understand the price of this property to be significantly lower than other options, resulting in considerable savings of taxpayer dollars
- **Proximity of services:** The location is close to employers for potential work release programs; close to health and social services in Bloomington; close to recreational amenities and city bus service; easily accessible from Vernal Pike, Woodyard Rd, I-69; Close to Indiana state police post and fire protection services.
- **Future needs:** The property has sufficient acreage for today's justice center with room to grow as needed
- **Economic development:** This site will not interfere with local land use strategies and community visioning for future planning and economic development

We are aware that the County is considering the North Park site as a possible option for the new justice center at a considerably higher price and believe that locating the justice center on that property would not only have negative fiscal impacts for taxpayers but would be an underutilization of that location. As a gateway to Bloomington and Ellettsville, the North Park property could be incredibly valuable from an economic development standpoint. We encourage collaboration among the North Park property owners, elected officials and local communities to identify and support the most strategic use of that land. We also recognize the public has concerns with the justice center being located at a prominent entry into our County.

In weighing a decision on locating the new justice center, we believe the most responsible action right now is to vet this new property option. As you set your budget for the justice center project, we urge you to consider the impact on taxpayers and the cost differential and future land use potential between location choices. Thank you for your consideration and for all you are doing to ensure the best solution for Monroe County.

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