

Open Letter to the Public:

The County Commissioners office has consistently taken an illegal and anti-transparent approach to their jail expansion proposal. A formal complaint about the closed door nature of the RFQ decision is now filed with the Indiana Public Access Counselor. In the meantime, we support Sheriff Marte in demanding accountability for their recent actions during onboarding the DLZ firm, outlined below:

“The Commissioners now must fully explain, in an absolutely transparent manner, how they arrived at publicly presenting such incredibly erroneous information as fact. This clarification is owed to the members of the CJRC, the competing architectural firms, all other stakeholders, but most of all, the public we serve. Without full disclosure, there cannot and will not be public trust in our system of government. My ask is a full and true explanation of the following:

1. The reasoning of transmitting the scoring criteria for the interviews to the committee eleven (11) days post-interviews and how this can possibly be effective.
2. If, as indicated in Angie Purdie’s email dated February 15, the scoring sheets were in fact disposed of and then “recreated.”
3. Confirmation of whether a document exists which identifies the vote of each committee member, and if so, public disclosure of such document.
4. An individual account from each Commissioner, in a public meeting, as to how they know or came to believe the vote of the committee to select DLZ was unanimous. It is very important to note here that at no time during the public statements of the Commissioners were there any exceptions, caveats or qualifications placed on the affirmative statements the vote was unanimous. The time for such has passed. The makeup of the committee is stated on the agenda and the words of “unanimous” and “all of the people on that committee selected DLZ” have been uttered.
5. If the Commissioners were purporting the unanimous vote of the committee without viewing written documentation supporting such, full disclosure of who informed them the vote was unanimous when, in fact, it was not.
6. Full disclosure if any of the Commissioners were or are aware that Kyle Gibbons and Matt Demmings did not participate in scoring the firms post interview.
7. Full disclosure if any of the Commissioners were or are aware that Matt Demmings did not vote for the selection of DLZ.
8. What action the Commissioners plan to take regarding any individual who contributed the false narrative of the unanimous vote,
9. What action the Commissioners plan to take regarding any individual who destroyed public records and/or any other violations of public trust.”

We believe that citizens deserve leadership that takes their voices into account. We will not let Monroe County ignore underrepresented voices and tie up hundreds of millions of taxpayer money in a rushed project, before even considering repairing the existing facility (as recommended in their own consultant report). We reject a shady government approach of backroom deals. We believe in making space for a different conversation, **where we can plan together as a community about what care could be funded with the hundreds of millions of surplus taxpayer dollars in the county accounts.**