

INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON AND MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA
REGARDING BUILDING CODE AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, Indiana Code § 36-1-7-1 et seq. permits governmental entities to jointly exercise powers through interlocal cooperation agreements; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, the City of Bloomington, Indiana ("City"), acting by and through its Mayor and its Common Council, and the County of Monroe, Indiana ("County"), acting by and through its Board of Commissioners and its County Council, determined that the interests of the citizens of Monroe County, Indiana, would be better served by coordinating and combining certain City and County building code services through an interlocal cooperation agreement; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, the City and the County entered into a five-year interlocal cooperation agreement, effective beginning April 1, 1997, that conferred County-wide Building Code administration authority on the Monroe County Building Department; and

WHEREAS, the term of the original interlocal agreement has been extended, through subsequent agreements, to January 1, 2024;

WHEREAS, the City and the County have determined that it is more cost effective and convenient for the citizens of Monroe County, Indiana, to continue to have the authority, power and responsibility for local building code administration, including permit application processing, project inspection, and permit issuance vested in a single entity, the Monroe County Building Department; and

WHEREAS, this Interlocal Cooperation Agreement ("Agreement") reflects the commitments and understandings agreed to by the City and the County in order to efficiently and effectively provide the transfer of powers between the City and the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, the City and the County hereby agree as follows:

Part 1. Definitions.

"Building Permit" shall include without limitation any permit for construction, remodeling, demolition, moving, plumbing, electrical, or any other permit that affects construction, demolition, use and/or occupancy of land, buildings or structures, provided that such permit is within the scope of "Building Code Jurisdiction" as defined herein.

"Building Code Jurisdiction" refers to applicability, administration and enforcement of City and County ordinances adopting state building, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, energy conservation, swimming pool, and fire safety codes; specifically, this term refers to Monroe County Code Chapter 430 and to those portions of Bloomington Municipal Code Title 17 that concern such State codes.

"City Zoning Jurisdiction Area" refers to those portions of the County over which the City, by law or by interlocal cooperation agreement, possesses planning, zoning, and subdivision control authority.

"County Zoning Jurisdiction Area" refers to those portions of the County over which the County, by law or by interlocal cooperation agreement, possesses planning, zoning, and subdivision control authority.

Part 2. Building Code Jurisdiction.

The Monroe County Building Department shall enforce all State building, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, energy conservation, and fire building safety codes, as adopted by City and County ordinances, within the corporate limits of the City, and within all other unincorporated areas of Monroe County, Indiana. The City will administer planning, zoning, and subdivision compliance functions within the City Zoning Jurisdiction Area, including, without limitation, the assignment of street addresses.

- A. The Monroe County Building Department shall accept building permit applications and will provide review, issue permits, receive fees, and provide inspections and enforcement, as required, for all buildings within the County in accordance with County Building Codes.
- B. City zoning compliance review and the issuance of a Certificate of Zoning Compliance ("CZC") by the City are conditions precedent to the issuance of a building permit for any project located within the City Zoning Jurisdiction Area. For projects located within the City Zoning Jurisdiction Area, the County will collect the City Zoning Compliance Review Fee, in the amount established by the City, in addition to the County Building Permit Fee.
- C. The County will not issue a building permit for a project located within the City Zoning Jurisdiction Area unless and until a Certificate of Zoning Compliance has been issued for the project by the City. The County will include CZC conditions required by the City along with the building permit; and the County will require compliance with the conditions as part of any temporary or permanent Certificate of Occupancy issued for the project by the County.
- D. The City Planning & Transportation Department and Monroe County Building Department will simultaneously process CZC and Building Permit applications through respective on-line permit/application management systems. The Departments will use their respective systems to communicate directly regarding the status of permit applications (for example, the Building Department may grant credentials in OpenGov to Planning & Transportation staff that enable them to view files directly, and the Planning & Transportation Department may grant similar credentials to Building staff to view CZC files within EPL or may use EPL to share with the Building Department a .pdf of approved CZCs). The Building Department will not release a Building Permit before electronically receiving or confirming a CZC approved by the Planning & Transportation Department. Both parties agree to make their best efforts to expedite the processing of permits under this agreement, and specifically, City and County agree to coordinate with respective applicants their responsibility to submit applications

through respective permit/application management systems to insure that all permit applications are reviewed as soon as reasonably possible after receipt by the City and County.

- E. The City will inspect and enforce zoning and subdivision compliance and administer bonds within the City Zoning Jurisdiction Area. The Monroe County Building Department will notify the City Planning & Transportation Department when an occupancy inspection for a project in the City is to take place, other than single-family residential projects. The County and the City will cooperate in providing information requested by the other party in a timely fashion.
- F. The County will not issue any construction, remodel, demolition, moving, or any other type of permit that might change the disposition of a structure to a residential rental within the corporate limits of the City until the City Code Enforcement Division ("HAND") has completed plan review and released the application. The County will schedule all final inspections of those permits with HAND where reasonably possible. The County will not issue a Certificate of Occupancy to a residential rental property within the corporate limits of the City unless and until compliance with the City of Bloomington Property Maintenance Code has been determined by HAND.
- G. For projects located within the corporate limits of the City, the County agrees to recognize and enforce Section 17.08.050(c) of the Bloomington Municipal Code which provides for the waiver of fees under specified conditions for eligible affordable housing projects up to the amount of \$2,500.00 per year.
- H. In recognition of the City's investment in the GIS mapping system, the County agrees to collect and verify GIS data for the City in a manner consistent with both the informational needs of the City and the information gathering and processing capabilities of the County. The County shall provide such data as is customarily obtained through building permit administration and planning subdivision approvals, and the City will share data in its possession and otherwise maintain robust communications with the County to help correct GIS data errors. The County will cooperate in enhancing its computer capability and compatibility for information exchange with the City.
- I. The County will notify the appropriate Fire Department for fire code inspections and shall transcribe all notations requested by the Fire Department, with jurisdiction over the project area, on to temporary and permanent Certificates of Occupancy. The County will notify the City Fire Department to coordinate review, response, and comment to the State Fire and Building Safety Commission regarding all applications for variance within the corporate boundaries of the City.
- J. The County shall inspect for compliance with all City of Bloomington Utilities regulations and any City ordinances governing construction/connection of utilities related to permit activity between the building and the connection to City's meter or main.
- K. The County shall issue stop work orders on Building Permits issued by the County where violations of applicable City zoning/subdivision, erosion control, or historic preservation

regulations would result from continued construction activity, or where work is stayed due to an appeal to the Board of Zoning Appeals as provided in Indiana Code § 36-7-4-1001. The County shall issue such stop work order upon written request of the City Planning & Transportation Director, the Director of Engineering, the Director of Utilities, or the Director of Housing and Neighborhood Development. Enforcement action shall be taken by the governmental entity whose ordinances or conditions of approval have been violated.

Part 3. Recitals of Commitment, Purpose, Duration, and Renewal of Agreement.

- A. The level of cooperation recited in this Agreement is intended to exist in perpetuity for the efficient and effective delivery of governmental services to the citizens of Monroe County. However, the parties recognize that modifications may be required, both to the Agreement itself, and to the practices and procedures that bring the recitals contained within this document to fruition.
- B. The County will collect the City Zoning Compliance Review Fee specified by the City, pursuant to Part 2, Paragraph B of this Agreement, and will transmit the collected fees to the City on a quarterly basis. Payments to the City will be made as promptly as possible after April 1, July 1, October 1, and January 1 of each year of this Agreement, allowing for the County's claim processing procedures. No other payments will be due to the City, from the County, under this Agreement.
- C. The term of this Agreement shall be from January 2, 2024, through January 1, 2025. This Agreement may be renewed by mutual agreement of the parties for an appropriate term of years.
- D. The City and County departments affected by the terms of this Agreement will continue to communicate and cooperate together to assure that the purposes of this Agreement are achieved on behalf of and to the benefit of the citizens of Monroe County, Indiana.

Part 4. Interpretation and Severability.

- A. Because the jurisdictional approach set forth in this Agreement departs from current practice, the parties acknowledge and agree that this Agreement shall be liberally construed so that the parties can cooperatively address unforeseen problems through the implementation of policies, with minimal need for Agreement amendment.
- B. If any provision of this Agreement is declared, by a court of competent jurisdiction, to be invalid, null, void, or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall not be affected and shall have full force and effect.

Part 5. Approval, Consent and/or Cooperation.

Whenever this Agreement requires the approval, consent and/or cooperation of a party (or parties), said approval, consent and/or cooperation shall not be unreasonably withheld.

Part 6. Appropriation of Funds.

The parties acknowledge and agree that the performance of this Agreement is subject to the appropriation of sufficient funds by their respective councils. The parties agree to make a good faith effort to obtain all necessary appropriations from their councils and to comply with all provisions of this Agreement to the extent feasible under current or future appropriations.

SO AGREED this _____ day of _____, 20__.

MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

PENNY GITHENS, President
Monroe County Board of Commissioners

JOHN HAMILTON, Mayor

KATE WILTZ, President
Monroe County Council

SUE SGAMBELLURI, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

ATTEST:

CATHERINE SMITH, Auditor

NICOLE BOLDEN City Clerk