



# THE CITY OF FRANKFORT, INDIANA

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Mayor Judy Sheets Recommends, and Board of Public Works Approves Closure of TPA Park Zoo**

For additional information, please contact:

Kimberly Black  
Community Development & Engagement Director  
City of Frankfort  
[kblack@frankfort-in.gov](mailto:kblack@frankfort-in.gov)

Mayor Judy Sheets  
City of Frankfort  
[jsheets@frankfort-in.gov](mailto:jsheets@frankfort-in.gov)

**Frankfort, IN** – [April 15, 2025] – At the Board of Public Works and Safety meeting last night, Mayor Judy Sheets recommended the closure of the TPA Park Zoo. Following discussion, the Board of Public Works and Safety voted to approve Mayor Sheets' recommendation.

This decision comes after recent challenges, including evolving interpretations of USDA regulations and significant financial expenditures. Mayor Sheets highlighted the city's commitment to fiscal responsibility with taxpayer money, noting the zoo had already incurred approximately \$17,000 in expenses from January to March of this year alone. Coupled with the need for substantial operational adjustments to meet new regulatory interpretations, the financial burden of maintaining the zoo was a key factor in the recommendation.

"This was one of the most difficult decisions I have had to make, but one that I believe is in the best interest of both the animals and our taxpayers," said Mayor Sheets. "We have faced increasing complexities in maintaining the zoo to the standards we expect, both in terms of animal welfare and financial sustainability. Given that we have already spent a significant amount this year, and with the prospect of further necessary investments, we have determined that transitioning the animals to appropriate new homes is the most responsible path forward for our community's resources."

Over the next several months, the City of Frankfort will work diligently to rehome the animals currently residing at the TPA Park Zoo. This process will prioritize the animals' well-being, ensuring they are placed in reputable facilities that can provide the specialized care they require. The city will collaborate with zoological associations and animal welfare organizations to facilitate a smooth and humane transition.

Further details regarding the timeline for the rehoming process and the future use of the TPA Park Zoo space will be shared as they become available.