



FROM THE DESK OF *Judith Sheets*
Mayor of Frankfort

Statement from Mayor Judy Sheets
Regarding Potential Data Center

In recent days, I have seen the frustration, fear, and anger circulating throughout our community regarding the proposed data center project. I want to speak to you directly—not as your Mayor, but as a lifelong member of this community who cares deeply about Frankfort's future and our people.

Let me be clear: I have not lied to you, and I have never withheld information in an effort to deceive the public. I understand the distrust that comes when people feel left in the dark. But the truth is, while preliminary conversations about a potential development have occurred, this project is far from a done deal. No final decisions have been made. Over the weekend and this morning, I have been diligently seeking answers on your behalf so I could prepare this statement for you. The Common Council and I have been working with municipal advisors, both from a financial perspective and a legal perspective, to obtain additional information about the effects this project may have on the City and the community.

Here is what we do know: The proposed development is presently located in a *county-controlled TIF district*, not within the city's jurisdiction. I do not have a vote in the decisions being made at the county level. The Common Council also does not have a vote in the decisions being made at the county level. It is my understanding that the developer plans to petition the Common Council for voluntary annexation. At this time, a complete filing has not been made. Should annexation ever be considered, it would require a public process by the Common Council – a body on which I preside and only vote if there is a tie. Prior to any vote by the Common Council, a public hearing must be held, providing the community an opportunity to share its viewpoints.

A petition has been filed with the City Plan Commission to rezone the land which is presently located in the county's jurisdiction. This rezoning could only occur if the land was annexed, as the city cannot otherwise rezone land outside of its boundaries. The preliminary recommendation to rezone the land is made by the City Plan Commission and then is ultimately made by the Common Council.



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The City Plan Commission will also hold a public hearing on the rezoning, which will occur later this week. If a rezoning is recommended, it would be contingent upon the property being annexed, or that decision would have no effect.

Additionally, the Utility Service Board which operates the Frankfort Municipal Utilities, signed a “will serve” letter, which simply states that *should* this project move forward, the city is willing to discuss meeting its utility needs. The “will serve” letter is non-binding; it does not require the Frankfort Municipal Utilities to provide services, nor does it represent approval of infrastructure or investment—those discussions are still a long way off and will require community input.

I know that social media can be a powerful tool, but it can also spread misinformation and fear. I want to reassure every resident: your voice matters. There will be *multiple public meetings and hearings*, as well as opportunities to ask questions, express concerns, and hear directly from those involved—long before any final steps are taken. This is not about backroom deals or hidden agendas. This is about navigating a complex process with transparency, responsibility, and community at the center. I will continue to advocate for open communication, and I welcome your feedback—not as an attack, but as a conversation.

Frankfort has always been strong because of its people. I remain committed to listening, leading with integrity, and serving you with honesty.

With respect,

Mayor Judy Sheets
City of Frankfort, Indiana