



THE CITY OF FRANKFORT, INDIANA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Frankfort Mayor Judy Sheets Announces Recommendation to Close TPA Park Zoo During State of the City Address

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Frankfort, IN—During her annual State of the City Address on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, Frankfort Mayor Judy Sheets outlined a vision for enhanced and accessible public spaces. She also announced a recommendation to close the TPA Park Petting Zoo and initiated an assessment of the long-term viability of the TPA Park Aviary.

Mayor Sheets emphasized the city's commitment to creating beautiful and accessible spaces for all residents, highlighting the need for higher levels of regular maintenance, enhanced landscaping, and active community engagement in park planning and design.

In a significant announcement regarding TPA Park, Mayor Sheets stated, "I will be making the recommendation to the Board of Works at our next meeting about shutting down the TPA Park Zoo. This is the best decision out of respect for our taxpayers, employees, and the animals. We deeply care about all involved and feel strongly this is the best decision."

Mayor Sheets underscored that this recommendation stems from a careful consideration of resource allocation, the well-being of the animals, and the overall sustainability of the petting zoo operation after several visits from the USDA.

Addressing the TPA Park Aviary, Mayor Sheets affirmed the city's commitment to its continued maintenance and care. However, she also announced that the city will assess this important amenity's long-term viability and sustainability. This assessment will consider factors such as operational costs, facility maintenance, and providing an optimal environment for the birds. Mayor Sheets noted that the city will work closely with the USDA throughout this process.

"This is probably one of the hardest decisions I have made as Mayor. It is heartbreaking for our employees who care for our animals," said Mayor Sheets. "This includes making responsible decisions about the resources required to maintain these spaces and the well-being of any animals under our care."

The City of Frankfort is committed to transparency and will provide updates on the recommendation regarding the petting zoo and the assessment of the aviary as they progress. Information will be shared through the city's official website and communication channels.