

**FOR IMMEDIATE  
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## **INDIANAPOLIS CITY-COUNTY COUNCIL INTRODUCES PROPOSAL TO RE-ESTABLISH ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT DISTRICT**

**Indianapolis** - On Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, the Indianapolis City-County Council will introduce a proposal to update the Downtown Economic Enhancement District (EED) to address changes made during last General Assembly session. The district aims to address safety, cleanliness, and homelessness with consistent, targeted funding and high-quality service for fee payers.

"As Indianapolis proudly hosted the swimming Olympic trials, it highlighted our city's dedication to showcasing world-class events and fostering community spirit right here in downtown Indianapolis," said Indianapolis City-County Council President Vop Osili. "An Economic Enhancement District is pivotal in keeping that momentum moving forward every day of the year. This initiative strengthens downtown's appeal and reinforces our ongoing commitment to maintaining its safety, vibrancy, and cleanliness for residents, visitors, and businesses."

In 2023, the Indiana General Assembly authorized the Indianapolis City-County Council to create an Economic Enhancement District. The Council approved the initial establishment of the EED in December 2023. Subsequent modifications to the EED were enacted by the Indiana General Assembly in 2024. Those changes include:

- Removes the Mile Square boundary requirement but requires any newly drawn district remain an equal square on all sides.
- Multi-family property/apartment buildings would be exempt from paying an EED fee but allows for an opt-in for these properties to pay into, and receive services of, the EED.
- Single-family homes (who previously would pay a flat \$250) are also exempt from the EED.
- The Governor would receive one more appointee making it a 5-4 state-local board and 6 votes are required for any action.
- Codifies in state code the \$5.5 million EED budget that was passed by the City County Council.
- Removes “activating and promoting public events”, “creating innovative approaches to attracting new businesses”, and “planning improvement activities” from the list of permitted uses of EED dollars.

- The EED cannot be renewed after 10-year lifecycle and any bonding or other agreements cannot extend past the 10-year window.

The new boundaries for the proposed Economic Enhancement District are: North border and the East border are I-65. The South border is primarily South Street, and the West border is primarily Blackford Street. The rate a property-owner can be assessed within the district will be capped at .168%, remaining consistent with the district fee structure passed last year.

“Thanks to an infusion of one-time federal funds provided by the City of Indianapolis, we have clearly seen how consistent street-level operations can have a meaningful impact on the safety, cleanliness, and experience of Downtown Indianapolis,” said Taylor Schaffer, Downtown Indy, Inc. President and CEO. “But we can’t rely on one-time, temporary funding sources or event specific programming if we want to have a world-class downtown, 365-days-a year. Over the last two years, a coalition of elected officials, business and corporate partners, as well as Downtown stakeholders, have worked collaboratively around a shared goal of sustained investment and continued momentum. These proposed updates to the EED reflect the feedback that we have heard following the 2024 session, allowing us to prioritize a high level of service for rate-paying property owners in an area that makes sense, without asking impacted properties to shoulder a larger financial burden.”

The funds collected by the economic enhancement district would fund projects focused on the cleanliness, safety, and experience of Downtown Indianapolis. Proposed projects include:

- 7-day-a-week cleaning crew to perform tasks like power washing, graffiti removal, litter abatement, etc.
- Beautification initiatives including plantings, painting, and mulching
- Off-duty foot and bike patrols to supplement police presence and provide direct outreach resources to property owners
- Safety ambassadors for additional street level presence
- Homeless Street Outreach team members, dedicated to connecting individuals to services, addressing issues, and coordinating with public safety agencies
- Investments in downtown crime-fighting public safety technology
- Last dollar in funding for a low-barrier shelter

“Building on the tremendous momentum downtown Indianapolis has gained in recent years, the re-establishment of the Economic Enhancement District will further enhance our city's vibrancy and appeal,” said Taylor Hughes, Vice President of Policy & Strategy at Indy Chamber.

“Working together with local businesses, community organizations, and government entities represents the collaborative effort to strengthen the heart of our city and allows us to ensure that every stakeholder has a voice in shaping the future of Indianapolis.”

The proposal will be referred to the Metropolitan and Economic Development Committee and scheduled for a public hearing on July 15, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Public Assembly Room.

Property owners within the boundaries of the Economic Enhancement District (EED) will receive a notice in the mail. This notice will include information about the EED as well as details regarding the upcoming public hearing.

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