

JUL 10 2025

Edwards,Michelle

CITY CLERK

From: Marissa Northam <marissanortham07@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2025 1:52 PM
To: Edwards,Michelle
Subject: EXTERNAL -Please forward to city council members

****External Email. - Think Before You Click** --**
Help Desk

Hello, I tried emailing the city council members and about half of them came back undeliverable. Please forward this email to them. Thank you!

Good afternoon,

I wanted to share a quick search that I did using ChatGPT to gather information related to other historical ordinances. As a homeowner in Farrington's Grove for over a decade and a mid forties woman, I've heard the numerous complaints of our citizens when another building is demolished, I've seen friends and online communities that brag about going to other historical districts like Broad Ripple and Fountain Square to enjoy the unique shops and restaurants located in beautiful historic buildings. No one gets excited about spending time or money at another chain or another hotel. While accommodations are important for the success of the newly built convention center, downtown Terre Haute would be losing out on a niche opportunity of tourism by not preserving its historical buildings that are not available in other newer cities. Please don't let our downtown become a bedrock of hotels. Support CO2!

I asked Chat GPT what other cities in Indiana have historical ordinances and what the public's overall responses were. This is what it came up with:

Cities & Historic Districts with Preservation Ordinances in Indiana

1. Indianapolis

- **Districts:** Lockerbie Square, Herron-Morton, Old Northside, Fletcher Place, Irvington, and more.
- **Governed by:** Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission (IHPC)
- **Public Response:**
 - *Positive:* Strong community pride, increased property values, and successful neighborhood revitalization.
 - *Concerns:* Occasional frustrations over design restrictions or approval delays for renovations, but many residents recognize these as the price of long-term stability and quality.

2. Bloomington

- **Districts:** Prospect Hill, McDoel Gardens, University Courts
- **Governed by:** Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission
- **Public Response:**

- *Positive*: High civic engagement, especially among residents who see preservation as key to protecting neighborhood charm and walkability.
- *Challenges*: Some property owners have pushed back on Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) requirements, particularly for changes they view as minor.

3. South Bend

- **Districts**: Chapin Park, West Washington, East Wayne Street
- **Governed by**: Historic Preservation Commission of South Bend & St. Joseph County
- **Public Response**:
 - *Positive*: Broad support for saving architectural landmarks and stabilizing property values in older areas.
 - *Concerns*: Tension occasionally arises over absentee landlords or developers seeking to bypass historic guidelines.

4. Evansville

- **Districts**: Riverside Historic District, Culver Historic District
- **Governed by**: Evansville Historic Preservation Commission
- **Public Response**:
 - *Positive*: Clear zoning protections have helped drive heritage tourism and local investment.
 - *Neutral/Mixed*: Some developers argue the process adds cost or delay, but property owners and preservationists generally defend the ordinances as essential.

5. Lafayette / West Lafayette

- **Districts**: Centennial Neighborhood, Ninth Street Hill
- **Governed by**: Local Historic Preservation Commissions
- **Public Response**:
 - *Positive*: Residents credit historic zoning with revitalizing downtown and encouraging responsible restoration.
 - *Challenges*: Ensuring equity in enforcement and encouraging more homeowner education about rules.

Respectfully,
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