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CITY CLERK

From: [Jessica Livingston](#)  
To: [Edwards, Michelle](#)  
Subject: EXTERNAL -Ohio Boulevard  
Date: Monday, May 5, 2025 2:17:12 PM

**\*\*External Email. - Think Before You Click\*\***

*--Help Desk*

Dear Members of the City Council,

I am writing to ask the Council to vote against the Resolution to establish and expand the economic development area known as the "Brickyard Estates and Paddock at the Park Economic Development Area." The proposed plan includes high-density housing, including apartments, to meet the constraints of the Residential Housing Infrastructure Assistance Program. Ohio Boulevard, with its historical architecturally significant homes and tree-line boulevard, is the wrong location for a high-density housing project.

The city's own website describes Ohio Boulevard as "the formal entry to the jewel of the parks system, Deming Park" and was placed on the National Register of Historical Places in 1989. Ohio Boulevard is a public resource that can be enjoyed by all residents. In addition to the neighbors living in the surrounding blocks who walk, jog, and bike on the street, I've also seen residents park at Deming Park and Meadows shopping center so that they can do the same. Wilson Middle School athletic teams running from the school to the park are frequent sights. The public also uses the Boulevard as a photo location from family fall foliage shots to spring prom photos.

For attracting employers to Terre Haute, we not only need affordable housing but also distinctive neighborhoods that make living in Terre Haute enjoyable. When I am recruiting faculty to Rose-Hulman and therefore to Terre Haute, I always highlight Ohio Boulevard as it's been my favorite street in the city since I relocated here eighteen years ago. It gives the city character and beauty, and adding apartments would detract from that and significantly alter the street.

In addition to rejecting the resolution, I ask the City Council to pass an ordinance to enact a Historic Preservation Commission to participate in city planning and zoning and to work with property owners and developers to preserve what makes Terre Haute unique. Angola, Aurora, Bloomington, Carmel, Crawfordsville, Evansville, Ft. Wayne, Hobart, Indianapolis, Lafayette, LaPorte, Michigan City, Mishawaka, Richmond, South Bend, Valparaiso and Wabash are just some of the forward-thinking cities in Indiana that have established Historic Preservation Commissions. The fact that there are two items on the City Council's agenda for May 8 in which developers seek to change the zoning of two streets with historical and architectural value—Center Street and Ohio Boulevard—speaks to the increasing need for such a commission to guide Terre Haute's growth.

Sincerely,

Jessica Livingston  
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