



RESOLUTION No 26-02
of the
TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF
MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, OPPOSING THE
LOCATING OF A UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS
ENFORCEMENT PROCESSING OR DETENTION FACILITY IN
WAREHOUSES WITHIN THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE**

WHEREAS, on December 24, 2025, the Washington Post published an article in which it was indicated that the federal government produced a draft solicitation that may seek private detention contractors for the renovation and use of industrial warehouses to process and detain U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainees; and

WHEREAS, according to the Washington Post article, the Town of Merrillville was identified as a potential municipality wherein there may be a plan to convert an industrial warehouse or warehouses into a detainee processing facility having at least 500 beds; and

WHEREAS, neither the Town of Merrillville, nor its officials have been informed, approached, inquired or solicited by the federal government for the placement of such a facility within the Town of Merrillville; and

WHEREAS, given the lack of any communication or contact regarding the realistic potential of a plan to convert an industrial warehouse or warehouses into a detainee processing facility within the Town, it is impossible for the Town Council to make informed policy decisions; and

WHEREAS, the prior approvals of the existing industrial warehouses within the Town were, in part, based upon the limited demand such facilities have for water and sewer, and upon other public resources and services; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Merrillville is committed to adhering to the laws of the State of Indiana and the Town's ordinances, inclusive of those governing local planning and zoning; and

WHEREAS, the conversion of industrial warehouses within the Town would place unanticipated demands upon the Town's water, sewer, public safety services, and other public resources in structures and areas not intended for human occupancy; and

WHEREAS, it is a primary objective of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville to ensure the public safety and welfare of its residents, business community and visitors to the Town; and

WHEREAS, it is the position of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville that the Town of Merrillville is not an appropriate municipality for the placement of a detainee processing facility; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Merrillville and its police department have had longstanding important collaborative relationships with county, state, and federal law enforcement partners that rely on communication between the agencies to best protect the officers, agents and the public while performing their duties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, as follows:

SECTION ONE: That the Town Council hereby unequivocally opposes the conversion of existing industrial warehouses within the Town for the creation of a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement processing facility, or any other facility that disregards the Town's land use and regulatory ordinances and creates unanticipated burdens upon the Town's infrastructure, resources and services.

SECTION TWO: That if any section, clause, provision or portion of this Resolution shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect any other section, clause, provision or portion of this Resolution.

SECTION THREE: That all existing Resolutions, or parts thereof, in conflict with the provisions of this Resolution, are hereby deemed null, void, and of no legal effect, and are specifically repealed.

SECTION FOUR: That this Resolution shall take effect and be in full force and effect from and after its passage and adoption by the Town Council.

Duly Resolved and Adopted this 27th day of January 2026, by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana.

TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of
MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

Rick Bella, President (IC 36-5-2-10)

ATTEST:

Eric O. January, C.P.A.
Clerk-Treasurer (IC 33-16-4-1; IC 36-5-6-5)