



VANDERBURGH COUNTY

ONE N.W. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BLVD.
CIVIC CENTER ROOM # 305
EVANSVILLE, INDIANA 47708

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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CHERYL MUSGRAVE, MEMBER

Contact: Commissioner's Office (812) 435-5241

Vanderburgh County Commissioners Propose New Building License Ordinance Simplifying Building Licenses

Evansville, IN - October 26, 2021 - As part of its pro-growth agenda, the Vanderburgh County Commission is considering rescinding current Building Licensing requirements and has proposed a draft ordinance simplifying building licenses and requirements. Specifically, the Commissioners' proposed ordinance mirrors Warrick County's requirements for building trades.

The Commissioners request public comment for the proposed ordinance in advance of second reading to be held on November 9, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. in room 301 of the Civic Center.

The proposed ordinance requires contractors performing work in Vanderburgh County outside the corporate limits of Darmstadt and Evansville to register with the joint city-county Building Commissioner, show proof of public liability and property damage insurance policy.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield said, "Vanderburgh County's licensing and registration requirements is one reason that has kept our county from growing". Commissioner Hatfield further noted, "Labor shortages in the sub trades have been specifically called out as a major concern by local contractors and rescinding the licensing requirements that the vast majority of counties in our state do not currently impose will help open up our opportunity for growth. Especially competing with neighboring counties for economic growth."

Commissioner Cheryl Musgrave said, "I am delighted that we are considering action today to remove these job-killing building license regulations". Commissioner Musgrave notes that the Commission formed a Task Force in 2017 to address this issue and pointed to months of committee meetings and hearings at that time. "Today's decisive action by the Vanderburgh County Commission is informed by the many Task Force meetings and research done several years ago," Musgrave said.

Vanderburgh County Building Licensing Code Chapter 15.36 can be found at the link below. It would be rescinded in its entirety.

<https://www.codepublishing.com/IN/VanderburghCounty/#!/VanderburghCounty15/VanderburghCounty1536.html%2315.36>

The proposed new ordinance is as follows:

15.36.010 Contractor Registration.

Contractors working in the exclusive jurisdiction of Vanderburgh County, who wish to be able to apply for building permits must be listed by the county. In order to obtain a listing the following must be provided:

(A) A completed Contractor Listing Application form, containing the following information:

1. (1) Name;
2. (2) Address;
3. (3) Phone number;
4. (4) Individuals authorized to secure permits under this listing; and
5. (5) Legal business status of the listed contractor.

(B) Proof of a public liability and property damage insurance policy insuring the listed contractor and naming the Board of Commissioners of Vanderburgh County as "additional insured" in an amount of not less than \$500,000 with a 15-day notification of cancellation to be provided to the Board of Commissioners of Vanderburgh County, Indiana.

(C) Property owners' exception. A private property owner shall be able to obtain a permit to perform work in or about his/her own property for a new or remodeled building or structure without the insurance. Any contractors hired shall provide all insurance, and the property owner shall have proof of public liability insurance, and property damage insurance in hand and available to responsible officials of the county and/or the County Building Department. All work shall be permitted and inspected the same as other permits, and shall adhere to all other state and local requirements.

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