



The Greater Bloomington
Chamber of Commerce

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Chamber of Commerce, Community Await Commissioners' Response to Convention Center Proposal

Bloomington, IN – August 30, 2022 – The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce along with numerous community partners plan to attend the Monroe County Commissioners' work session on Wednesday, August 31 to discuss a pathway forward for the expansion of the Monroe Convention Center. The Commissioners' work session will begin at noon in the Monroe County Courthouse, Nat U Hill Room.

"We are anxiously awaiting the County Commissioners' response to the City of Bloomington's proposal to acquire the Monroe Convention Center and begin moving forward on expansion," said Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce President Eric Spoonmore. "We are very pleased that the County Commissioners invited City representatives to their meeting for this important discussion."

The Chamber of Commerce, City of Bloomington representatives, and local hospitality & tourism leaders will be present at the work session to advocate for a pathway forward on the convention center expansion project. The long-delayed project was supposed to be funded by a local food and beverage tax that passed in 2017. Since then, the tax has generated over \$15M in revenue, but the project has seen no progress to date.

"The lack of any meaningful progress on the expansion is deeply concerning because it could put the future of the food and beverage tax funding mechanism in jeopardy by the State Legislature during its 2023 legislative session," said Spoonmore. "Time is of the essence, and the Commissioners' teamwork in this process is critical to achieving a successful outcome for the community."

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