

UREPORT: ON LINE REPORTING AND HELP REQUESTS

See a swing set at the park that needs to be repaired? A sidewalk that's blocked by overgrown vegetation? A street light that's not working? A pothole that needs to be patched? Have an idea for a program that you'd like to share with the Parks Department? Have a compliment for a city staff member? **Use UReport!**

This online portal is a quick, easy way to communicate with the city about non-emergency issues like those above. The site is easy to navigate with drop-down menus, open fields to record your comments, and even a place to upload your photos of whatever needs attention. When you submit your reports or comment to the City it will be sent to the appropriate department and you'll hear back from the staff who are working on the issue (generally within a day or two). You may also send an e-mail directly to info@bloomington.in.gov or call the City at 812.349.3400, (but I've found UReport to be a lot faster!)

FIND OUT MORE:

- <https://bloomington.in.gov/ureport-about>

CITIZENS ACADEMY: LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR CITY!

The Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) Department launched the Citizens' Academy in 1999 to encourage civic involvement. Through sessions with City Departments, participants learn about the challenges of city government, budget limitations, day-to-day operations, and mandates in this fun and educational 9-week program. **Topics Include:** City Council and Clerk's Offices | Public Works | Parks and Recreation | Planning and Transportation | HAND | Police Department | Fire Department | Utilities | Bloomington Transit and lots more.

2020 Classes will be held every Thursday, August 27 through October 22 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY:

- <https://bloomington.in.gov/citizens-academy>



B-CLEAR DATA SET SPOTLIGHT: BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT (BPD) DEMOGRAPHICS

"B-Clear" is short for *Bloomington Clear*, a web-based, one-stop site for data about the City of Bloomington, its services, and its neighborhoods. The site is open to the public and includes over 200 data sets about everything from park trails to police calls to paving schedules. This month, I'm spotlighting the *BPD Employee Demographics* data set – a look at age, gender, ethnicity, and educational attainment of those who work for the Bloomington Police Department. Visit the site below to learn more about BPD officers and staff.

FIND OUT MORE:

- <https://data.bloomington.in.gov/dataset/bloomington-police-department-employee-demographics>

TRANSPORTATION SURVEY: *TRANSFORM2045* METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

The MPO provides transportation planning services for Bloomington, Ellettsville, and parts of Monroe County. To ensure that the best transportation projects are prioritized, public input is essential.

Transform2045: The BMCMPPO Metropolitan Transportation Plan, is the MPO's long range transportation plan with the year 2045 in mind. It will be informed by collective public comment to help plan for, select, and improve the best transportation projects over the course of the next 25 years to make our region an even better place to live. This 10-15 minute survey is a chance to share your experiences using the Bloomington area's current transportation system (roads, bridges, etc.) and about your ideas about how to improve your transportation experience.

FIND OUT MORE AND COMPLETE THE SURVEY:

- <https://www.bloomington.in.gov/mpo/metropolitan-transportation-plan>



STATEMENT ON RACISM AND WHITE SUPREMECY

In recent weeks, I've received 500+ messages on the death of George Floyd, policing and police budgets in Bloomington, and the racially charged incidents at Lake Monroe and elsewhere.

I've responded to every single message and want to share my thoughts here as well:

Like every other thinking person, I am outraged by the incidents at Lake Monroe in the last few days, not to mention De Davis' experience in his own southside neighborhood. I was living in Bloomington in 1999, and I vividly remember the day of Won Joon Yoon's murder by a white supremacist. Along with the anger I feel, I grieve for a community – and a nation – where such events can occur.

**So first things first:
I wholly and unequivocally
condemn white supremacy,
including the violence it begets and
the racist ignorance on which it is based.
Period. Full Stop.**

To clarify a misconception from some of the press coverage ... Neither the Bloomington Police nor the Bloomington City Council have jurisdiction over the events at Lake Monroe. [That authority falls to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR)]. That said, I join so many others in calling on the Monroe County Prosecutor's office to conduct an immediate and exhaustive investigation, not just of the incident itself, but of how it was handled by DNR officers. There is no place in our society for law enforcement officers who do not uphold the most basic core values of equality, diversity, and justice. Further, we must put into place and enforce *substantive* hate crime legislation *in the State of Indiana*.

The powerful words and images from this summer's protests have been too many to count, but one of the most poignant for me was a young woman, standing alone outside the Monroe County Courthouse and holding a sign that said,

***"I am not Black,
but I see you.
I hear you.
I mourn with you.
I will fight for you."***

Continued ↗

Literally every day, I pray that I can live up to that standard myself.

I promise you that I will continue working to further educate myself on these critical issues. As a member of the legislative body with fiscal authority for the City of Bloomington, I will ask tough questions and I will challenge assumptions about resources needed for every department, including law enforcement and Community & Family Resources. And for those resources that we do devote to law enforcement, I will push for "more-than-just-what's-required" training in ethics, use of force policy, implicit bias, de-escalation, and other elements of #8CANTWAIT's core principles.

I've said it in so many settings ... I am grateful every single day that I get to live in Bloomington, and even more grateful (and humbled) that I have this opportunity to serve our residents. I hope you will all play your part too.

Sue

PILOT PROJECT: LOWER CASCADES ROAD CONVERSION

WHO DECIDES WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PILOT? -

Two groups ultimately have the authority to decide what to do with the road in Lower Cascades: (1) the **Board of Park Commissioners** (BPC), and (2) the **Board Public Works** (BPW). BPC will deliberate and vote on a recommendation to close/not close the road. Then, BPW will use their statutory authority to actually close/open the street once the recommendation comes to them. The issue does not come before City Council, and so I don't have a vote. What I CAN do is help as many people as possible take advantage of opportunities to share their views.

SHARE YOUR OPINION! - Come offer your thoughts during public comment at the following meetings:

- **Board of Public Works** - August 4 | 5:30 pm at City Hall in Council Chambers (Initial Report)
- **Board of Parks Commissioners** - August 18 | 4:00 pm at City Hall in Council Chambers (Vote on Permanent Closure)
- **Board of Public Works** - September 1 | 5:30 pm at City Hall in Council Chambers (Final Vote)

NOTE: The dates above are just my current best guess about when Lower Cascades will come up on the agenda. Please visit the web pages for those Boards and check for an updated agenda regularly so you don't accidentally miss an opportunity to offer comment.

