

A Resolution in support of expanded siting options for a Tompkins County Center of Government

RESOLUTION #2025-_____

Whereas, the Tompkins County Legislature has placed under consideration and has taken actions to advance plans to construct a Tompkins County Center of Government that would consolidate various County departments in an office building located at East Buffalo and North Tioga Streets in Downtown Ithaca, a combined construction/renovation project estimated to cost \$50 Million or more; and

Whereas, to solicit public comment and project design input, Tompkins County convened a series of five (5) Community Engagement meetings throughout Tompkins County during June 2025, including a session in Enfield at which representatives of this Town Board attended and offered comment; and

Whereas, at the Enfield session and at other meetings, commenters raised concerns as to project cost and to the suitability of a Downtown Ithaca location from the standpoint of parking, community access, and the need to optimally utilize commercial space throughout Tompkins County; and

Whereas, subsequent to those five Community Engagement sessions, information came to light that Tompkins County Administration in May 2025 had considered an alternate location for this project, specifically, as the County Administrator had stated in a May 19 memorandum to the Tompkins County Legislature and to other county officials that, "Recent developments related to properties in the Cornell Business Park located in the Town of Lansing have prompted renewed discussion about potential alternatives to the downtown center;" and

Whereas, in that May 19 memorandum, the County Administrator had indicated that numerous, expansive, ground-leased office buildings at the Cornell Business Park had been foreclosed upon by a local bank and had been offered Tompkins County for sale; and

Whereas, despite the County Administrator's initial stated reluctance to proceed with the Cornell Business Park siting option, this Town Board believes the alternative, as well as other potential site locations, deserves further consideration so as to address concerns raised by this Town Board's members and by other community members at the Public Engagement meetings; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Enfield Town Board hereby encourages the Tompkins County Legislature and Tompkins County Administration to consider seriously and thoughtfully various alternative siting locations for a Tompkins County Center of Government, alternatives including, but not necessarily limited to, buildings made available at the Cornell Business Park; and be it further

Resolved, that the Clerk shall forward copies of this Resolution to the Hon. Korsah Akumfi, Tompkins County Administrator, and to the Clerk of the Tompkins County Legislature, with a request that copies of this resolution be distributed to all Legislators.

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