

## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Monroe County Commissioners: 70 New Affordable Housing Units, On-site Childcare to Come** *ARPA-funded Habitat for Humanity residences to be located on South Old State Road 37.*

**Monroe County, IN**—During today's Monroe County Board of Commissioners meeting, Julie Thomas, Penny Githens, and Lee Jones announced that a new Habitat for Humanity affordable housing project is in the works. To be located at 4810-4820 South Old State Road 37, the project is expected to include a total of 70 new housing units, 32 of which will be Habitat for Humanity-designated.

Additionally, commissioners will work with Habitat for Humanity and the current property owner to convert an existing home on the site to a childcare facility. Initial estimates suggest that the building would have capacity for 32 children in all.

Funds allocated from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) will be used to support the project. “We have been hearing from many sources about the need for additional housing in our community, especially affordable housing, which is why we are in favor of using ARPA funds for this project,” says Monroe County Board of Commissioners Vice President Penny Githens.

“It is wonderful to utilize American Rescue Plan Act dollars to support the development of Habitat for Humanity residences—with an added benefit of providing much-needed childcare for our county residents,” Monroe County Board of Commissioners President Julie Thomas adds.

During the Board of Commissioners meeting, Monroe County Attorney Jeff Cockerill shared a conceptual site plan for the project. (See site plan PDF, produced by Smith Design Group, provided with this press release.)

The Old State Road 37 property also includes two storage facilities. “We think Habitat for Humanity would be able to use those for some of their operational needs as well as to store building materials,” Monroe County Commissioner Lee Jones notes.

As for next steps? “In order for the project to move forward, a PUD request will need to be made to the County Plan Commission and the provision of sewer services will also need to be secured,” Thomas concludes.

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