

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Amanda Mitchell Campaign

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Commissioner Candidate demands transparency after receiving FOIA documents

South Bend, IN — Libertarian Party candidate for St. Joseph County commissioner, Amanda Mitchell, would like to share a series of Freedom of Information Act documents received from county officials during her records investigation.

The FOIA documents point to backroom deals involving an out-of-state corporation dealing in solar energy and county leaders with development resources.

Mitchell said these revelations highlight the need for greater transparency and accountability in local government and she hopes to help accomplish that with support.

"My request revealed issues regarding transparency, and ethical violations that the public is unaware of," said Mitchell. "I am committed to bringing transparency to our government and ensuring that decisions are made in the best interest of our community, not corporate empires."

April 9	June 3-4	June 11	June 25	July 8th	July 9th
Hexagon contacted Abby Wiles, Area Plan Director, about 36-7-4-1109 and stated that they believed they were vested if they submitted an application.	Bill Schalliol, Economic Development Director, worked with Hexagon Energy to try to change the local ordinance to help them be grandfathered in.	Hexagon asked why their suggested language was left out and Bill replied that the pre-existing conditions would be discussed as part of the amendment.	County Council Committee Hearing, Economic Development attorney deferred to Hexagon for legal advice on being grandfathered in.	Hexagon submits their application to be grandfathered in.	New Solar Ordinance passed and the public is told Hexagon is grandfathered in.
The timeline is significant. There is no reason to ask to change the local ordinance to be grandfathered in, if in fact Hexagon or the county believed they were grandfathered in. (Click on blue underlined dates for documents)					

Additional Economic Development Director's Actions:

Mitchell became concerned when she saw that Bill Schalliol petitioned for \$96,000 from the Redevelopment Commission in [November of 2023](#) to update the draft of the Comprehensive Plan to support House [Bill 10-05](#), which would expand Tax Increment Financing (TIF) areas and remove restrictions for declaring such areas for housing. This would only serve to further enrich investors and increase the fiscal power of the unelected Redevelopment Commission, while shifting the burden of taxes, for essential services of the growing population, to private homeowners. With over [17,000 parcels under TIF and over \\$2.2 billion](#) in incremental assessed value already in St Joseph County, it is clear that increasing TIF areas will have a profound impact on our local community.

"These documents expose the unsettling truth about how out-of-state corporations are influencing our local laws for their own gain," said Mitchell. "I want to educate people further on the harms of tax increment financing."

Mitchell's campaign is rooted in three core issues: government ethics and anti-corruption measures, free speech, and fiscal responsibility. Her dedication to promoting transparency in government decision-making is evident in her call for accessible and accountable local governance.

Key documents can be accessed by clicking on the blue hyperlinks in this email and Mitchell can speak to the specifics of the documents to show reporters and the public the questionable and unethical behavior.

For more information, please visit www.voteamandamitchell.com.

[Email from Bill Schalliol explaining his involvement with Hexagon Energy representatives.](#)

November 14, 2023 Redevelopment Agenda:

https://www.sjindiana.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_11142023-1815