



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

BIANCA L. TIRADO, CITY CLERK

HEALTH & PUBLIC SAFETY

JANUARY 12, 2026, 4:00 P.M.

Committee Members Present:

Sharon McBride*, Dr. Oliver Davis, Sheila Niezgodski, Savino Rivera Jr., Troy Warner (*arrived late*), Rachel Tomas Morgan

Committee Members Absent:

None

Other Council Present:

Canneth Lee

Others Present:

Bianca L. Tirado, Matthew Neal, Jasmine Jackson, Veronica Pitt-Payne, Bob Palmer

Presenters:

Michael Schmidt

Agenda:

Bill No. 78-25 - Amending Chapter 14, Article 15, Section 14-175 to Increase the Number of Public Safety Officers Available at No Cost to Event Organizers

Members marked with an asterisk (*) are in virtual attendance.

Please note the attached link for the meeting recording:

<https://docs.southbendin.gov/WebLink/browse.aspx?dbid=0,0,0,0,0&mediaid=403201>

Committee Chair Rachel Tomas Morgan called to order the Health and Public Safety Committee meeting at 4:01 P.M.

Bill No. 78-25 - Amending Chapter 14, Article 15, Section 14-175 to Increase the Number of Public Safety Officers Available at No Cost to Event Organizers

Michael Schmidt, Assistant City Attorney, with offices on the sixth (6th) floor of City Hall, South Bend, IN 46601, presented the bill. He said the bill provides eight (8) additional hours of police staffing at special events.

Citizen Member Savino Rivera Jr. asked about the criteria for classifying events as tier two (2) and tier three (3).

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CHIEF DEPUTY CITY CLERK / CHIEF OF STAFF

Matthew Neal
DEPUTY CITY CLERK / DIRECTOR OF POLICY

Veronica Pitt-Payne
DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROJECTS

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Michael Schmidt said those categories refer to the size of the event. He noted that the bill does not make any changes to those classification criteria.

Committee Chair Tomas Morgan asked Michael Schmidt to confirm that event organizers will still pay for security, and the bill is merely increasing the number of hours included in the registration fee.

Michael Schmidt confirmed that is correct. He said “security” refers to the closing of roads and crowd control.

Council President Canneth Lee asked about the reason for the change.

Michael Schmidt said the City wants to make sure they are not losing special events over the cost of the required police presence.

Committee Chair Tomas Morgan opened the public hearing.

William Elliot Smith, 728 Whitehall Drive, South Bend, IN 46615, spoke against the bill. He said the bill restricts free speech and imposes prior restraints through the permitting process.

Committee Chair Tomas Morgan closed the public hearing.

Citizen Member Rivera spoke about his previous experience organizing a five-k (5k) race and expressed support for the additional resources the bill would provide for special events.

Committee Member Sheila Niezgodski spoke about the Westside Memorial Day Parade and echoed Citizen Member Rivera’s support for the bill.

Committee Member Dr. Davis asked about the constitutional concerns that were brought up during the public hearing.

Michael Schmidt said he disagrees with this interpretation and clarified that the ordinance is content neutral, does not generate revenue, and does not target specific events. He said he would provide Committee Member Dr. Davis with a letter addressing his legal concerns prior to the Council meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Committee Member Niezgodski moved to send Bill No. 78-25 to the Committee of the Whole with a favorable recommendation, which was seconded by Committee Vice Chair Troy Warner and carried by a vote of five (5) ayes with one (1) nay.

Committee Chair Rachel Tomas Morgan – <i>Aye</i>	Committee Vice Chair Troy Warner – <i>Aye</i>
Committee Member Sheila Niezgodski – <i>Aye</i>	Committee Member Sharon McBride – <i>Aye</i>
Committee Member Dr. Oliver Davis – <i>Nay</i>	Citizen Member Savino Rivera Jr. – <i>Aye</i>

With no further business, Committee Chair Tomas Morgan adjourned the Health and Public Safety Committee meeting at 4:21 P.M.



Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Tomas Morgan, Committee Chair