

# Town of Darmstadt, Indiana

January 24, 2024

\*\* Via Email \*\*

Ms. Casey Hillenbrand  
[casey.m.hillenbrand@gmail.com](mailto:casey.m.hillenbrand@gmail.com)

Mr. Bruce Ungethiem  
[bungethiem@yahoo.com](mailto:bungethiem@yahoo.com)

Mr. Tom Small  
[tsthenas.small@gmail.com](mailto:tsthenas.small@gmail.com)

Dear Ms. Hillenbrand, Mr. Ungethiem, and Mr. Small,

I write to you in my capacity as President of the Town Council of Darmstadt, Indiana. This letter serves as a formal notice of your removal from your positions as members of the Town's Redevelopment Authority (RDA).

After thorough consideration and deliberation, and in accordance with the powers vested in me pursuant to Ind. Code § 36-7-14.5-8(d), it has become evident that the continuation of your services on the RDA is untenable due to several significant concerns, which include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Persistent antagonism, particularly by Ms. Hillenbrand, toward our town's elected officials and employees, an attitude which disrupts the spirit of cooperative governance and respect that is vital for our community's success.
2. Neglect of the fiduciary duties and ethical responsibilities entrusted to you as members of the RDA, leading to concerns about the integrity and financial stewardship of the body. Specifically, the Indiana State Board of Accounts (SBOA) communicated noncompliance by the RDA with applicable laws and/or uniform compliance guidelines established by the SBOA.
3. Attempts by Mr. Small to exclude Darmstadt residents from meetings that are legally required to be open to the public, a direct contravention of the principles of transparency and accountability that we hold dear.
4. A consistently hostile tone and relationship with the Town Council, which has severely hampered effective communication and collaboration essential for our town's growth and operation.
5. Indications by Ms. Hillenbrand that have suggested a prioritization of personal or external interests over the collective welfare of our community.

This decision is not made lightly but is necessitated by the circumstances. Our primary commitment is to serve the best interests of the Town of Darmstadt and its residents. The

aforementioned issues have led to a breach of the trust and responsibility required in your roles as members of the RDA.

Effective immediately, you are hereby relieved of your duties and responsibilities as members of the Town's Redevelopment Authority. This action is taken in accordance with Ind. Code § 36-7-14.5-8(d), which allows for the removal of board members for cause.

In collaboration with the Town Council, I will proceed with appointing your successors in a manner consistent with our established procedures. It is our hope that the RDA will continue its important work with renewed focus and alignment with the Town's goals and values.

Thank you for your past service to the Town of Darmstadt. We wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Cecil Poag  
President, Town Council  
Town of Darmstadt, Indiana