

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-85-05

**AN ORDINANCE REGARDING SECURITY FOR
THE WABASH COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER**

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners are responsible for the operation and security of the Wabash County Judicial Center, which houses the Wabash Circuit Court and Wabash Superior Court.

WHEREAS, Rule 2.17 of the Indiana Code of Judicial Conduct requires Judges to prohibit broadcasting, televising, recording, or taking photographs in the courtroom and areas immediately adjacent thereto.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners previously adopted Ordinance 2005-VII, which only prohibited cellphones or other electronic devices in the Wabash Circuit Court and Wabash Superior Court, and adjacent hallways.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners have determined that, due to advancements in technology, it is necessary to repeal Ordinance 2005-VII and adopt an ordinance to ensure proper enforcement of said Rule, ensure for the safety and security of the Courts, and the orderly administration of justice at the Wabash County Judicial Center.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDAINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. No person shall possess or take into the Wabash County Judicial Center any cellular phone or other types of audio or video recording devices.
2. No person shall possess or take into the Wabash County Judicial Center any “deadly weapon” as defined by I.C. 35-31.5-2-86, as amended from time to time, any universal pliers, or any other object deemed to be dangerous by any security officer for the Wabash County Judicial Center.
3. No person shall bring food or drink into the Wabash County Judicial Center.
4. The following persons are exempt from the prohibitions of this Ordinance: Court employees, Prosecutor’s Office employees, Clerk’s Office employees, Court Services employees, law enforcement officers, Department of Child Services employees, attorneys in good standing, and other persons as allowed by the Circuit and Superior Court Judges.
5. The prohibition in Section 2, above, shall not apply to any person that is attending a public meeting of a governing body, as defined by I.C. 5-14-1.5 *et. seq.*, that meets in the Wabash County Judicial Center.
6. Any law enforcement officer, Court Services employee, Judge, or Court employee may enforce this Ordinance.
7. Any person who violates this Ordinance shall be guilty of a Class C infraction and subject to a fine of \$500.00.
8. This Ordinance shall be effective upon its adoption and publication of notice of its adoption as required by Indiana law. If any part of this Ordinance is determined by a court of competent

jurisdiction to be invalid, unlawful, or otherwise unenforceable, the remainder of this Ordinance shall be saved and enforceable.

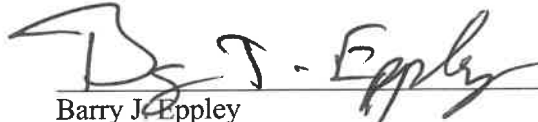
9. Ordinance 2005-VII is hereby repealed and replaced upon adoption of this Ordinance

ADOPTED this 9 day of September, 2024.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WABASH COUNTY



Jeff D. Dawes, Chairman




Barry J. Eppley



Brian K. Haupert

ATTEST:



Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor