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THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026

"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" II COR. 3:17

IndyStar.

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\$500M data center zoning OK'd

14-acre facility planned for Martindale Brightwood

Alysa Guffey

Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Metrobloks, a Los-Angeles-based startup, is one step closer to building its proposed \$500 million data center in Martindale Brightwood after the city's Metropolitan Development Commission on April 1 approved rezoning the land to fit a data center.

In front of a packed house at the Indianapolis City-County Building, the commission overwhelmingly passed the project with the backing of district councilor Ron Gibson and the Indy Economic Development Inc., the city's economic incentives arm.

Metrobloks plans to spend \$500 million to build two large buildings to house large servers on the 14-acre site of a long-abandoned drive-in theater just

north of the intersection of 25th Street and North Sherman Drive. The campus would span roughly 168,000 square feet and include 36 electrical generators. AES will supply power to the 75-megawatt center, with Metrobloks agreeing to pay for 100% of fiber and energy infrastructure upgrades needed.

The Metropolitan Development Commission approved the rezoning by a 6-2 written ballot vote. The commission did not take an oral vote, so it was not immediately clear how each commis-

sioner voted. Commissioner Brandon Herget was not present. A motion by Commissioner Brent Lyle to dismiss the request failed earlier in the hearing.

Metrobloks has applied for tax abatements for the project and IEDI has offered an initial incentive package, the terms of which have not been disclosed.

Nearly 100 people gathered to speak against the data center proposal. Many of them addressed the neighborhood's

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Construction continues March 25 along Shelby Street in the Fountain Square area of Indianapolis.

PHOTOS BY MYKAL MCELLOWNEY/INDYSTAR

Bondi fired as attorney general amid criticisms

Bart Jansen and Terry Collins

USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump fired Attorney General Pam Bondi after several investigations of his perceived enemies were thwarted and her handling of files related to accused sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein came under criticism.

"Pam Bondi is a Great American Patriot and a loyal friend, who faithfully served as my Attorney General over the past year," Trump said in a social media post. He said she would be moving to "a much needed and important new job in the private sector."

Bondi's ouster represented Trump's second removal of a Cabinet official in his second term. He fired Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem in March and replaced her with Markwayne Mullin, a former senator from Oklahoma.

Bondi will be succeeded temporarily by Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche.

Lawmakers of both parties accused Bondi of botching the release of the

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'IT'S TERRIBLE'

Fountain Square businesses endure construction that cuts down customer traffic

Alysa Guffey Indianapolis Star | USA TODAY NETWORK

Kenyatta McCoy has a specific gripe with the blocks-long road construction project that's been bottlenecking Fountain Square for the last three months.

The 37-year-old DoorDash and rideshare driver has watched reviews of his service on the apps drop significantly. DoorDash customers complain they've had to wait too long and their food is cold. Rideshare customers gripe about having to walk a few blocks to be picked up.

And McCoy can count himself as one of the lucky ones. Unlike the businesses that sit in the middle of the construction chaos in Fountain Square, he can sometimes navigate around the problems during his workday.

Much of Fountain Square's main commercial strip is torn up and closed as the city's Department of Public Works undergoes a lengthy and complicated construction project to address flooding that plagues the area. During the construction, several roads are closed and parking on the main strip is limited. Businesses in the area are still open, but customers must make an extra effort to reach them.

Construction on the spoke intersection of Shelby and Prospect streets and Virginia Avenue has disrupted the neighborhood, which already has narrow streets and

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Kenyatta McCoy speaks with IndyStar March 25 about the road construction in the Fountain Square area of Indianapolis. McCoy works in food delivery and says with the construction, extra time to find parking is affecting his reviews.



Scott Wooldridge, co-owner of Elf 'N Moon Gaming & Hobby, speaks on March 25 about the project. "That's been an issue," he said. "You know, in the morning times, when they're working, nobody's coming in. Our business has taken a serious hit."

Public colleges cut 210 degree programs after 2025 state law

Kayla Dwyer

Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

A quarter of the academic degree programs in Indiana's public higher education institutions will be eliminated, suspended or consolidated in the coming years, many of which had few to zero students enrolled.

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education approved the final list April 1, which they arrived at in agreement with the state's seven public colleges after a 2025 state law compelled them to review degree programs that do not meet certain enrollment thresholds.

Of the state's 2,300 degree programs, 210 are being eliminated or

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Volume 123 | No. 264
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