



CITY OF RUSSELL
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BILLY C. SELVAGE, JR
FIRE CHIEF

July 10, 2026

Dear Citizens and Businesses of Russell,

As your Mayor, it is my privilege to serve you and work toward a brighter future for our community. I am writing today to share an update on the progress we are making in Russell regarding data centers.

At a special called meeting on June 8, 2026, the Russell City Council passed Ordinance No. 7, 2026 imposing a temporary moratorium on the acceptance, processing, and approval of applications relating to data centers for a period of 180 days pending review and recommendations by the City of Russell Board of Adjustments and/or The Greenup County Joint Planning Commission.

This called meeting was prompted by the meeting held in Boyd County a week and a half earlier dealing with a surprise announcement of a data center being constructed at the Industrial Park. Our intent was to collect information and educate ourselves during this moratorium period so that we would be able to provide answers to our citizens. Also, we retained an attorney with Adams Law Office to provide legal review for the City of Russell relating to data centers in the City of Russell.

On Friday June 19, 2026 I received an email from Mr. Mitchell with Gateway City Consulting requesting a meeting to discuss our recently enacted data center moratorium and how it may affect a project he was working on at the West Works / Cleveland Cliffs property. This is the first I became aware that the property was under contract. Mr. Mitchell wanted the city involved in evaluating the project, its potential benefits, and the protections the city would need before any path forward is considered.

Mr. Mitchell also mentioned that this is a legacy industrial property surrounded by significant industrial activity, existing infrastructure, and long-standing heavy-industrial use. This does not eliminate the need to address noise, infrastructure, traffic, emergency services, utility impacts and community concerns. Also cited in his email is that at full buildout, the project could deliver substantial economic valued to Russell. (i.e., Over 1000 craftsman onsite for over a 4-year construction period, roughly 200 long-term, high paying jobs with estimated annual payroll approximately \$25,000,000.00 and approximately \$40,000,000.00 paid annually to Russell and local taxing jurisdictions.

He requested a phone call on Monday June 22, 2026. We agreed to meet on Wednesday July 1st, 2026. We met for approximately 1.5 hours, and discussed an overview of their project. The city gave Gateway City Consulting an extensive set of questionnaires regarding the project and the

project's impacts. As of this writing on 07/10/2026, the city has not seen answers to our questions which will post as soon as we received them so the public can review.

Attached to this is the extensive list of questions submitted to Gateway City Consulting for answers so our citizens can review. As soon as we get answers to these, we will post them and then we will focus on the public hearing.

I sincerely hope this summary helps in being both informed and transparent. We are in this together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel R. Simpson, IV". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" and a clear "IV" at the end.

Samuel R. Simpson, IV
Mayor
City of Russell Kentucky