ORDINANCE NO. 1805

CITY OF WESTFIELD

IN CITY COUNCIL, JULY 6, 2026

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF WESTFIELD, APPENDIX B-ZONING, ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 3, 1987, RELATIVE TO A MORATORIUM ON DATA CENTERS.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, AS FOLLOWS

That the following definition be added to Section 2-20:

Data Center. A building or series of buildings that, as its principal use, houses and supports the high-performance servers, storage systems, networking equipment, and related computing infrastructure and equipment necessary for storing, processing, and distributing data and applications.

and that the following section be added:

Section 5-32 - Temporary Moratorium for Data Centers

5-32.1 – Moratorium.

The permitting, construction, expansion, conversion, establishment, or operation of any Data Center in the City shall be prohibited until July 6, 2027. *(one year from the date of second reading and final passage)*

5-32.2 - No applications.

During the moratorium, no application, permit, special permit, site plan approval, variance, building permit, zoning permit, or other land use approval shall be accepted, processed, or approved for a Data Center.

5-32.3 - Pending applications.

Any pending application for a Data Center shall be stayed during the moratorium.

5-32.4 - BESS-related projects.

No Data Center shall proceed during the moratorium if it requires, depends upon, or is paired with BESS approval, BESS construction, or related energy-storage infrastructure subject to Section 5-31 or any successor BESS moratorium.

5-32.5 - Review.

During the moratorium, the City Council's Natural Resources Committee shall review environmental, public health, and infrastructure impacts to better inform permanent zoning regulations.

5-32.6 - Extension.

The moratorium may be extended once for up to 180 days upon a finding by the Board of Health that additional time is needed to protect public health or the environment.

5-32.7 - Termination.

If the City adopts permanent zoning regulations governing Data Centers before expiration of the moratorium, this Section shall terminate on the effective date of those regulations.

5-32.8 - Severability.

If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

Presented to the Mayor

For approval July 7, 2026

Kaitlyn Bruce, City Clerk

Approved by the Mayor

7-7, 2026

Michael A. McCabe, Mayor

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