

Howell Township Resident Research Committee (RRC)

Data Center Ordinance Review

July 7, 2026

Howell Township Board
Howell Township Hall
3525 Byron Rd.
Howell, MI 48855

Re: Status of the Data Center Ordinance Review — Request for Board Attention

Dear Members of the Howell Township Board:

The Resident Research Committee (RRC) submits this letter for the record ahead of Monday's meeting to share the status of the data center ordinance review with the Board and the public, and to respectfully ask for the Board's help in moving it forward.

Since December 2025, the RRC has participated in every Planning Commission and data center subcommittee meeting made available to us, submitting reports, research, and drafting feedback on a consistent basis. In each instance where we were asked for input on short notice — including a full turnaround of revisions to the Carlisle Wortman working draft in under five days — we delivered.

Our most recent substantive submission — the “Work List & RRC Memo” — was sent to the subcommittee on May 14, 2026, following the May 12 meeting. It has now been almost eight weeks since that submission, without a subcommittee meeting being held to work through the outstanding items it identified. In response to our request for an update, the Township Treasurer confirmed this week that legal questions raised at the May 12 meeting were sent to the Township attorney for review, and that a response is still pending.

We understand legal review takes time, and we are not asking the Board to short-circuit that process. Our concern is narrower: the items the RRC identified in our May 14 submission — changes the planner made in the revised draft that were never included in their memo, and therefore never discussed by the subcommittee — are separate from the legal questions currently under review, and they remain unaddressed. If the attorney's review concludes and a new draft moves forward without the subcommittee first working through this list, the public could be presented with a fully baked ordinance with little real opportunity to review or discuss it before adoption.

We recognize the Board and Township staff are aware of where this process stands — the Treasurer's response to us this week makes that clear. We share this update publicly, ahead of Monday's meeting, because we believe residents are entitled to the same visibility, and because public attention is one of the most effective ways to help keep a stalled review moving. To be clear, the RRC is not the source of the delay. We have met every deadline asked of us and not requested any extensions — a significant feat for a volunteer resident group. Our request of the Board is simple: encourage the Township attorney to complete the pending review promptly, and direct that a subcommittee meeting be scheduled so the outstanding items already on the record can be discussed before the next draft is finalized.

Residents are following this process closely. For the public's reference, we have attached a timeline of the RRC's meetings, submissions, and correspondence since December 2025.

Thank you for your time and continued attention to this important issue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Barbash". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Howell Township Resident Research Committee (RRC)

Angela Barbash, Co-Chair

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Attachment: RRC Meeting & Submission Timeline (December 2025 – June 2026)

Attachment A
RRC Meeting & Submission Timeline (December 2025 – June 2026)

Date	Meeting / Correspondence	Work Presented / Notes
12/16/2025	Planning Commission meeting	- Map notating residential concentration surrounding VG property - Report: Data Center History & Zoning Requirements overview - Report: Definitions
1/27/2026	Planning Commission meeting	Report: Definitions & Data Center Zoning Requirements
2/12/2026	Subcommittee Meeting (not OMA)	- Report: Definitions & DC Zoning Requirement - Report: DC Building Design Requirements - RRC Ordinance Outline Submittal/Checklist
2/24/2026	Planning Commission meeting	- RRC omitted from agenda despite prior agreement - Ordinance Outline and DC Building Design Requirements report (both previously submitted to subcommittee) not included
3/4/2026	Subcommittee Meeting (not OMA)	RRC presented: Preliminary revisions to CW's draft "Complete Re-Organized CW Working Draft") and an "Ordinance Items Left to be Added" list
3/24/2026	Planning Commission meeting	Report: Decibel Limits & Noise Research
4/2/2026	Subcommittee email	- Submission: "Complete Re-Organized CW Working Draft" - Recommendation: RRC Violations Policy Recommendation - Report: BESS - Report: Decibel & Noise Background Information, Limits, and Noise Research
4/16/2026	Subcommittee Meeting	CANCELLED / Rescheduled
4/28/2026	Planning Commission meeting	RRC omitted from agenda
5/12/2026	Subcommittee Meeting (OMA)	- RRC presented: "Most Recent – Finished Notes on CW Revised Draft." - RRC identified changes in CW's revised draft that were not included in CW's memo, and therefore not yet discussed — compiled in the "Work List & RRC Memo" (sent 5/14).
5/14/2026	Subcommittee follow-up email	"CW Draft Sources," "Work List & RRC Memo," and "Most Recent – Finished Notes on CW Revised Draft." - Reiterated the unresolved items and requested they be discussed before the next draft revision begins.
5/26/2026	Planning Commission meeting	CANCELLED
6/23/2026	Planning Commission meeting	CANCELLED

Note: As of this letter, the draft ordinance has been under attorney review for nearly eight weeks without returning to the planner, and no subcommittee has been scheduled since June 23, 2026 to address the items identified above.