



James A. Carter
Mayor

CITY OF PIKEVILLE
243 Main Street
Pikeville, Kentucky 41501
(606) 437-5100
Fax Number (606) 437-5106

Reggie Hickman
City Manager

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
**City of Pikeville Begins Formal Review of Potential Data Center Development at
Kentucky Enterprise Industrial Park**

Document does not transfer land or commit city to any specific terms

Pikeville, KY (June 5, 2026) The City of Pikeville announced today that it has signed a preliminary agreement, known as a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), with MD Squared Power LLC, a Lexington-based company. This agreement allows the City to explore a potential data center development at the Kentucky Enterprise Industrial Park. To ensure full transparency, the MOU, a site map, and a detailed summary of the City's review process are being released to the public today at pikevilleky.gov.

The MOU was signed by both parties on April 20, 2026. It establishes a 120-day period during which the City and the developer will negotiate exclusively with one another while both sides determine if a final Development Agreement makes sense. The MOU identifies certain parcels of land within the industrial park that could be included in any final agreement, depending on negotiations.

City officials stress that the MOU does not transfer any land or commit the City to any specific terms. It is not a final contract. Either the City or the developer can walk away from the talks for any reason once the 120 days are up, with no penalties. By mutual agreement, the parties may extend that period if more time is needed. The City has not entered into a non-disclosure agreement related to this project, and we were not asked to do so.

The Pikeville City Commission is working toward hiring an independent attorney with experience in data center development agreements and completing an independent economic and site analysis as part of the necessary due diligence of evaluating the potential project. As this process moves forward, additional professional expertise may be brought in as needed. No final Development Agreement will be considered by the Commission until this independent review is completed, and any final agreement must be approved by the Commission at a public meeting.

The initial phase of the proposed project represents a potential capital investment exceeding \$250 million in the industrial park. The developer's proposal projects that

The City of Pikeville is an Equal Opportunity Employer

phase would create more than 190 construction jobs and 40 permanent, full-time positions with wages significantly above the Pike County median household income. The City's review process will seek to verify these economic projections and ensure any potential final agreement includes enforceable commitments to those numbers.

"The Kentucky Enterprise Industrial Park represents years of public investment with the goal of bringing jobs to our area. We take a hard, honest look at every realistic opportunity to bring jobs and investment to this community," said Mayor Jimmy Carter. "That means doing our homework, looking at the benefits, and protecting the public from any potential pitfalls. That's what this process is designed to do."

City Manager Reggie Hickman said the City has been paying close attention to the questions being raised publicly about data centers in Eastern Kentucky. "A lot of what we are hearing from the community reflects questions we were already asking ourselves," Hickman said. "We want people to understand what we are examining and why. The document we are releasing today alongside this press release lays that out as plainly as we can at this stage of the process."

The City Commission's priority is to explore real economic opportunities while protecting Pikeville's land, water, finances, and environment. The City understands that utility costs and infrastructure are major concerns for all of Eastern Kentucky right now, and is factoring that broader perspective into its review. The independent review being pursued is designed to ensure the City has the information it needs to make a balanced, informed decision.

The MOU, the industrial park site map, and a detailed explanation of what the City is examining and why are available at pikevilleky.gov. Questions may be directed to the datacenter@pikevilleky.gov.

About the Kentucky Enterprise Industrial Park The Kentucky Enterprise Industrial Park is a 190-acre industrial development owned by the City of Pikeville, developed over more than a decade through city investment and state and federal grant funding including AML Pilot, AMLER, and the state's Kentucky Product Development Initiative among others. The park currently hosts two operating businesses, Appalachian Tank and Wrightway Concrete, and includes a state-certified Build-Ready site completed in 2024. Information about the park is publicly available through the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development.