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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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March 5, 2025

Mayor Eddie Melton
Office of the Mayor
City of Gary
401 Broadway Gary, IN 46402

Re: Letter of Support – City of Gary & Hard Rock Northern Indiana Proposal for Lake County Convention Center

Dear Mayor Melton:

Just over 8 months ago, I assumed the role of Superintendent of the Gary Community School Corporation. Since then, I have been afforded several opportunities to engage and partner with both the City of Gary and Hard Rock of Northern Indiana. Each entity has been welcoming and supportive as our school district continues to amplify efforts to provide the best educational experience for every scholar we serve.

Most recently, the City of Gary and Gary Common Council publicly expressed their opposition of state legislation that could potentially impact the funding of our schools. Meanwhile, Hard Rock Northern Indiana made its corporate citizenship known through a generous donation to the Gary schools supporting children and our staunch commitment to teaching and learning.

The above gestures (and several others) coupled with the great benefits that a Lake County Convention Center would provide to the citizens of Gary/Northwest Indiana have prompted me to pen a letter of support for this project proposal.

On behalf of myself, Dr. Yvonne Stokes, and the Gary Community School Corporation, we provide this letter of support for the proposal submitted by the City of Gary and Hard Rock Northern Indiana in response to the RFP/RFQ issued by the Lake County Board of Commissioners for a Lake County Convention Center.

We believe that Gary is the best location for this amazing endeavor and will present great opportunities not only to our school community, but regionites and those who venture here from other places. Moreover, the strong partnership between the City of Gary and Hard Rock sets the stage for an economic boost that would be a collective win for Northwest Indiana.

Your consideration of our support is greatly appreciated, and I am happy to expound on my sentiments should the Commissioners have any related questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Yvonne Stokes, Superintendent
Gary Community School Corporation