

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF A PROPOSAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, OPERATION AND AN OWNERSHIP SHARE IN A LAKE COUNTY CONVENTION AND EVENT CENTER

WHEREAS, Indiana Senate Enrolled Act 434 (2023) authorized up to \$100 million in state matching funds to be provided in an annual amount of up to \$5 million over a period of twenty (20) years ending before July 1, 2045, to be used for a convention and event center ("**Convention Center**") in Lake County, Indiana ("**Lake County**"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Indiana Code 36-7.5-7 ("**Act**"), the Board of Commissioners of Lake County ("**Board of Commissioners**") was authorized to begin accepting proposals on July 1, 2023 for the development, operation and an ownership share in a Convention Center from any entity qualified to fund and operate a Convention Center, including local political subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2024, the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority released an updated financial feasibility study confirming the "continued viability of a convention center in Lake County"; and

WHEREAS, on May 15, 2024, the Board of Commissioners issued an "RFP/RFQ for the Development, Construction and Operations of Lake County Indiana Convention Center" due on October 16, 2024 ("**RFP/RFQ**"), which set forth, among other things, the minimum requirements under the Act to be included in the RFP/RFQ; and

WHEREAS, on October 16, 2024, the Board of Commissioners received submittals in response to the RFP/RFQ from (1) the City of Hobart, Indiana and Garfield Public/Private LLC ("**City of Hobart/Garfield Proposal**") and (2) the City of Gary, Indiana and Hard Rock Casino Northern Indiana ("**City of Gary/Hard Rock Proposal**") (collectively, the "**Proposals**" and each a "**Proposal**"); and

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2024, the Proposals were presented to the Board of Commissioners during a public meeting; and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2025, the Board of Commissioners held a public meeting to select legal and financial advisers to assist with the review of the Proposals; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has reviewed the Proposals and considered the information provided by its staff and advisers relating to the Proposals and now finds that it will be of public utility and benefit to Lake County and in the best interests of the citizens of Lake County to approve a Proposal; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires that the Board of Commissioners approve a Proposal by adoption of a resolution;

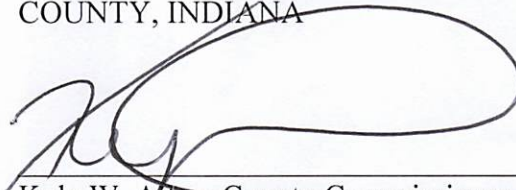
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

Section 1. Pursuant to the Act, the Board of Commissioners hereby approves the City of Gary/Hard Rock Proposal.

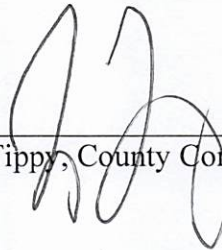
Section 2. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, in accordance with Indiana law.

ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF MAY, 2025.

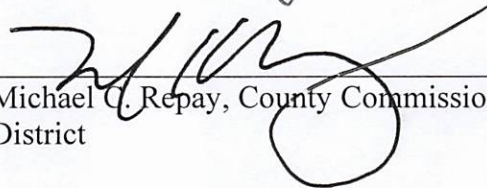
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LAKE
COUNTY, INDIANA



Kyle W. Allen, County Commissioner 1st District



Jerry Tippy, County Commissioner 2nd District



Michael C. Repay, County Commissioner 3rd District

ATTEST:



Peggy Holinga Katona, County Auditor