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GARY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL HITS THE JACKPOT SPECTACLE/HARD ROCK CASINO PARTNERSHIP SUPPORTS CITY'S VISION

Gary, Indiana-Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson says the casino partnership between Spectacle Entertainment and Hard Rock International is exactly what we have been talking about.

Freeman-Wilson stated following the news of the partnership between Spectacle Entertainment and Hard Rock International, "A brand like Hard Rock International is indeed transforming for gaming in Gary and Northwest Indiana, but more importantly, the Hard Rock supports the economic development vision for our city, the region and Buffington Harbor."

In February this year, the city of Gary had its first big win when the Indiana Senate Public Policy Committee unanimously approved the city's economic development proposal for an intermodal hub at Buffington Harbor. In addition, the proposal would allow the Gary casinos to relocate to 80/94. In March, the city received another win when Spectacle Entertainment won the state's approval to purchase Majestic Star Casinos. This move by the Gaming Commission also opened the door for development at Buffington Harbor.

"The city has long had a vision of economic development at Buffington Harbor," stated Freeman-Wilson. "This is about job creation and exponential growth in the city of Gary. We want to maximize the Gary casino as an economic driver and as well, along the city's lakefront."

"The move of the casino to I-80/94 will make Gary a destination and a catalyst for development along the corridor. The partnership with Hard Rock International and its world class entertainment will multiply the opportunities for Gary and Northwest Indiana. Our economic development proposal hit the jackpot."

Rod Ratcliff chairman and CEO of Spectacle Entertainment stated in a Spectacle/Hard Rock press release, "Our joint venture with Hard Rock International will result in significant tax benefits along

with creating more than 1,000 construction jobs and nearly 1,800 permanent jobs in the region. We're confident this \$400 million investment will serve as a significant catalyst for the continued economic revitalization of northwest Indiana and the City of Gary."

The mayor thanked Governor Eric Holcomb, Senator Eddie Melton, Indiana lawmakers, Spectacle Entertainment/Hard Rock International and all involved in the process and for seeing the vision. "We are excited to welcome Spectacle and Hard Rock International to the city of Gary."

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