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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **GARY RECEIVES APPROVAL TO MOVE CASINO TO I-94 INDIANA GAMING COMMISSION'S APPROVAL MAKES WAY FOR CITY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL**

**Gary, Indiana-**By this time next year the Burr Street exit off of I-94 in Gary will have a totally different appearance following the Indiana Gaming Commission's approval today of the relocation of Majestic Star Casino to one of the busiest highways in the nation.

Spectacle Entertainment plans to begin construction of a land-based casino and entertainment venue later this year and has partnered with Hard Rock International to create Hard Rock Casino Gary.

"The move of the casino to I-94 will make Gary a destination and a catalyst for development along the corridor," said Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson. "Secondly, the partnership with Hard Rock International and its world class entertainment will multiply the opportunities for Gary and Northwest Indiana. This move also makes room for the highest and best use of Buffington Harbor."

The city has long had a vision of multi-modal development at Buffington Harbor. In February 2019, the Indiana Senate Public Policy Committee unanimously approved the city's economic development proposal for an intermodal hub at Buffington Harbor. This vote came after hearing testimony from national port expert John Vickerman about the promising prospects of an inland port at Buffington Harbor.

"This is about job creation and exponential growth in the city of Gary," said Freeman-Wilson. We want to maximize the Gary casino as an economic driver along the 80/94 corridor."

Mayor Freeman-Wilson testified before the Indiana Gaming Commission today urging the committee to approve the relocation of the casinos. “With approval to move the casinos from Buffington Harbor gives Gary an opportunity to realize economic development on the city’s lakefront,” said Freeman-Wilson.

The Indiana commission delivered a unanimous vote to approve the move of the Majestic Star Casinos from Buffington Harbor at its August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Mayor said, “This is a great day for Gary.”

Spectacle Entertainment is planning a December 31, 2020 opening.

**-30-**