

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019-1 OF THE BOARD OF
LAPORTE COUNTY, INDIANA COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, the Office of Economic Development (OED) was created by the Board of County Commissioners in 2013 and has been supported consistently by the LaPorte County Council since that time, and

WHEREAS, the Office has provided a one-stop-shop for both developers and local companies looking for technical assistance and professional services on shovel-ready sites as well as existing industrial and commercial space; the OED counts among its successes landing new firms such as JBC Rail and Helena Chemical and has played a key role in job growth with increased employment opportunities at firms such as Van Air, Heartland Footwear, Harrison Electric, Kingsbury Elevator and as well as bringing back the critical job training opportunities available in a WorkOne office to Michigan City and initiating additional job training programs, and recently landing nationally recognized NorthPoint Development to bring jobs and opportunity to the long-vacant Roundy's refrigerated warehouse facility near Westville, and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to recognize the efforts of previous Office of Economic Development Directors Dave Christian and Mike Seitz in helping to position the Office for future growth and recognizes the important role the Office has taken in advocating for a variety of quality of place initiatives for LaPorte County, and

WHEREAS, this body believes it is important to continue to grow and enhance the role of the OED in both economic and community development and has today appointed former Economic Development Corporation of Michigan City (EDCMC) Director Anthony Rodriguez to be the new Director of the office, and

WHEREAS, this body believes that pairing Anthony Rodriguez, an experienced economic development professional who drove the EDCMC to create historic investment and job growth along with seasoned economic development professional Matt Reardon creates a "dream team" approach for LaPorte County which can take this county to the next level of job creation and sustainable and smart growth; and

WHEREAS, this robust, team-centered approach can support local businesses so they can grow and remain competitive while encouraging investment by new developers and help induce new industrial and commercial prospects to locate in our county, and

WHEREAS, the county Redevelopment Commission (RDC) has now authorized three different TIF zones where job growth is being encouraged, which include

Kingsbury Industrial Park (KIP), the I-94/421 Corridor and 39 North Conservancy District, and

WHEREAS, sufficient TIF revenues exist to permit the engagement of consultant Matt Reardon to be able to focus his efforts exclusively on the three TIF zones and the RDC is authorized under statute to engage consultants for economic development/job creation,

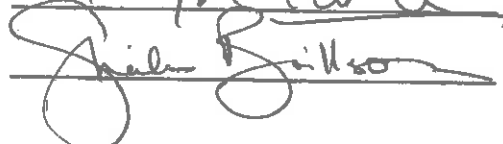
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LAPORTE COUNTY THAT:

- 1. The Office of Economic Development is hereby re-named the LaPorte County Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) to better recognize the place-making and quality of life initiatives that can emanate from such office in addition to economic development.**
- 2. This Body endorses pairing the talents of Anthony Rodriguez who will now head the OCED with that of consultant Matt Reardon and the RDC is respectfully encouraged to consider engaging Mr. Reardon in a consulting capacity to work specifically on the county's three TIF zones – namely - KIP, I-94/421 and 39 North.**
- 3. This Body will present a budget to the LaPorte County Council at their January meeting to fund the Office of Community and Economic Development for 2019 and wishes to go on record in appreciation for the continued, sustained support of the County Council for various economic development/job creation initiatives since the Office was first established in 2013.**

All of which is resolved and adopted this 2nd day of January, 2019.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS





Attest:



Joie Winski, LaPorte Co. Auditor