FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Court Enters Final Order in Gaslight Village Case; City Faces Decision on Appeal

EGR Responsible Development emphasizes that the existing development approval remains in place and calls for consensus rather than further taxpayer-funded litigation.

EAST GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Kent County Circuit Court has entered its final order in the Gaslight Village Planned Unit Development (PUD) case, invalidating the City's approval of the proposed amendment and returning the matter to the City Commission. The City now has 21 days to decide whether to appeal.

EGR Responsible Development (EGRRD) opposes using taxpayer funds to appeal the ruling and urges the City Commission to work with residents and the developer toward a proposal capable of securing the five votes required under Michigan law.

The court's ruling does not prevent development of the property. The original 2004 PUD ordinance remains approved, allowing development within its established parameters, subject to standard administrative approvals. The parking structure and Buildings A and B along Wealthy Street were constructed under that authority.

The dispute arose because the developer sought to amend the existing ordinance to permit a larger project, increasing the total number of residential units, expanding the commercial footprint, and reducing residential parking requirements. The developer's desire to build at a higher density initiated the amendment process that ultimately led to litigation.

The court determined that the residents' protest petition was valid and that the City Commission's approval failed to satisfy the statutory voting requirement, rendering the amendment approval null and void.

EGRRD believes further litigation would divert public resources from reaching an acceptable development agreement. The existing ordinance already provides a lawful path forward; expansion beyond those approved parameters requires the necessary approvals.

EGRRD encourages residents to contact their elected commissioners before the October 19 meeting to express their views on taxpayer-funded appeals and the opportunity to pursue a consensus development plan.

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ABOUT EGR RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT

EGR Responsible Development, Inc. is a citizen organization advocating for responsible development, transparency, and adherence to established planning processes in East Grand Rapids.

Website: **egrresponsibledevelopment.com**