FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 14, 2026

# EGRRD Questions City's Appeal Strategy Following Court Ruling

*Organization urges commissioners to respect the court's ruling, protect taxpayer funds, and work toward a development proposal that earns the required five votes.*

**EAST GRAND RAPIDS, Mich**. — EGR Responsible Development (EGRRD) is calling on the East Grand Rapids City Commission to abandon consideration of an appeal following Judge George J. Quist's August ruling invalidating the approval of the revised Gaslight Village development plan.

The court determined that the residents' protest petition was valid and that the Commission's four-to-three vote was insufficient to approve the ordinance. Under Michigan law, the qualifying petition triggered a supermajority requirement of five affirmative votes.

During the August 7 hearing, Judge Quist characterized the applicable statute as a "bare-bones statute." The City's objections concerning petition verification highlight questions about the statute's application that EGRRD believes should be addressed through the legislative process rather than additional taxpayer-funded litigation.

According to figures cited publicly by Commissioner Swartz, the City has spent approximately $65,000 on legal proceedings related to the development. An appeal would expose taxpayers to additional costs while prolonging uncertainty surrounding the development.

**EGRRD urges the City Commission to refrain from spending additional public funds appealing the ruling.** Instead, commissioners should work collaboratively with the developer and residents to develop a proposal capable of earning the five votes required for approval.

The protest petition is a protection established by Michigan law. Residents should not have to finance continued litigation over their exercise of that protection.

**EGRRD encourages all concerned residents to contact their City Commissioners before the October 19 meeting** and urge them to respect the court's ruling, avoid further taxpayer-funded litigation, and pursue a development plan that can achieve the necessary consensus.

###

## 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**