

**Resolution No. 2019-2 of the Board
of Commissioners of La Porte County, Indiana
supporting the Vibrant Communities Initiative
for La Porte County**

WHEREAS, the La Porte County Convention & Visitors' Bureau and the Unity Foundation of La Porte County are teaming up to bring the diverse communities and the people of La Porte County together to engage them in discussions about quality of place, and

WHEREAS, this process, to be entitled the "Vibrant Communities Initiative" will include large and small in-person meetings, online feedback and physical surveys and will require broad community engagement – from government, non-profits, faith based organizations, businesses, families and individuals with stakeholders all participating in listening to community wants and needs, collecting information as well as listening to what the communities want to create or even avoid, and

WHEREAS, our local process will be patterned after successful similar "quality of place" discussions held most recently in Elkhart County and Valparaiso, Indiana and conducted by the nationally-regarded consulting firm of Planning Next from Columbus, Ohio, and

WHEREAS, the Vibrant Communities Initiative is not seeking county government or city government funds but rather support from the non-profit and for-profit sector in our county to support this project, and

WHEREAS, county government elected officials and appointed officials will be asked to participate in the listening and data collection processes and will provide "sweat equity" to the Initiative, in lieu of tax dollars, and

WHEREAS, the process led by Planning Next in Elkhart County resulted in numerous community wide discussions and listening sessions helping plan an action agenda for the future in that county consisting of 77 different action items that stakeholders agreed were important and some 600 persons from all sectors of Elkhart County gathered in the historic Lerner Theatre at the end of the project to support and endorse the initiatives there, and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of La Porte County believe this county can benefit from a similar “bottom up” form of community place-making and inventorying of assets/listing of goals rather than “top down” centralized governmental planning.

NOW THEREFORE WE WHOLEHEARTEDLY ENDORSE THE EFFORT TO BEGIN A VIBRANT COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE HERE IN LA PORTE COUNTY AND COMMEND THE TWO CO-CHAIRS – MAGGI SPARTZ OF UNITY FOUNDATION AND JACK ARNETT OF THE LA PORTE COUNTY CVB - WITH HELPING SPEARHEAD THIS EFFORT AND WE PLEDGE THE FULL SUPPORT AND BACKING OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT WITH PROVIDING TECHNICAL AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR THIS INITIATIVE.

SO RESOLVED THIS 6th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2019

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LA PORTE COUNTY,
INDIANA**

Valya Cox
Shela Brinkson
Paul M. Miller
Attest: [Signature]

Attest: