



January 30, 2026

Kimberly A. Murnieks
Director, Office of Budget & Management
20 East Broad Street, 34th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Ohio Sports Facility Performance Grant Application
Cleveland Guardians & Cleveland Cavaliers

Dear Director Murnieks:

Gateway Economic Development Corporation of Greater Cleveland (“Gateway”) respectfully submits this letter in support of the applications being submitted by the Cleveland Guardians and the Cleveland Cavaliers in connection with the Ohio Sports Facility Performance Grant Program (the “Grant Program”) established under R.C. 123.282 and being administered by the Ohio Office of Budget & Management. Gateway is the Ohio non-profit and 501(c)(3) corporation which owns Progressive Field, Rocket Arena and the surrounding common areas including Gateway Plaza along Ontario Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio.

As set forth in the Grant Program applications, the Cavaliers’ lease with Gateway for Rocket Arena currently runs through 2034 and the Guardians lease currently runs through 2036. Gateway’s lease agreements with the Cavaliers and Guardians, as revised and extended in 2017 and 2022, respectively, facilitate Gateway’s ability to continue as a good steward of the facilities, which Gateway has now done since the facilities opened in 1994. The current leases with the Guardians and the Cavaliers allocate responsibility for maintenance, capital repair and improvement costs between the teams and Gateway to ensure the long-term viability of these two tremendous public assets.

The nature of the projects identified in the funding applications submitted by the Guardians and Cavaliers fit squarely within the purposes of the Grant Program to support the construction or renovation of major league sports facilities in Ohio. Gateway, as the owner of Rocket Arena and Progressive Field, enthusiastically supports the Cavaliers’ and Guardians’ Grant Program requests and ultimately will be the beneficiary, along with Gateway’s public partners, the City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County, of the capital improvement renovations when completed.

To the extent any additional information or documentation from Gateway would be helpful in your consideration of the Cavaliers and Guardians Grant Program applications, we welcome the opportunity to provide you with whatever information you deem necessary or helpful. Otherwise, we thank you in advance for your time and consideration of the Cavaliers and Guardians Grant Program applications.

Very truly yours,



Todd Greathouse
Executive Director

cc: Virginia Benjamin (Chair of Gateway Board)
Debbie Berry (Gateway Ex Officio Board Member)
Bonita Teeuwen (Gateway Ex Officio Board Member)
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