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Support for Issue 7 grows stronger

Endorsements increase to renew small tax on cigarettes, alcohol in Cuyahoga County to finance major improvements, repairs at three sports facilities in Cleveland

CLEVELAND- May 1, 2014- The Keep Cleveland Strong campaign continues to receive support for Issue 7 from respected members of the community and influential organizations.

Supporters of Issue 7 include more than 30 mayors from Cuyahoga County as well as organizations such as the Cuyahoga County **Mayors and Managers Association, Cleveland Building and Construction Trades Council, North Shore AFL-CIO** and the Cleveland chapter of the **NAACP**. Issue 7 has been endorsed by **The Plain Dealer, The Akron Beacon Journal, Crain's Cleveland Business and The Call & Post**. Most recently, it has received the support of the **the United Auto Workers, Fraternal Order of Police and the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association**.

Issue 7, the effort to extend the small Cuyahoga County tax on cigarettes and alcohol, is on the May 6 county-wide ballot.

Here is a sampling of Issue 7 endorsements:

"Alongside the many positives that come from passing Issue 7, it is important to note that if voters turn down the extension, Cuyahoga County and the City of Cleveland will still need to pay for major capital repairs – without a dedicated source of funds. The City and County may have to pay these bills out of their regular budgets, putting critical services at risk. We care deeply about local health and human services, and voice special concern for mental health services and homelessness services that could be affected by general budget cuts."- **Sister Judith Ann Karam, CSA, congregational leader of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine and board member of the Sisters of Charity Health System.**

"Issue 7 has my unwavering support as it is vital in keeping Cleveland a major professional sports town. Its passage is key to the economic well-being and future development of the greater Cleveland region."- **Jerry N. Hruby, Mayor, City of Brecksville; Chairman, Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission.**

"Issue 7 needs to pass due to it being so important to driving foot traffic to the many downtown restaurants and bars. Our sports venues have helped bring back economic activity in prior areas that would potentially still be abandoned buildings. Today they are thriving districts and a huge economic impact to the many businesses around them. We screwed up by destroying what Cleveland was known around the world for once before, The Flats. It was left to be nothing but a desolate place for years. Let's not make the same mistake with our sports arenas." - **Corey May, Managing Partner, Barley House, Harry Buffalo and Townhall.**

"Supporting Issue 7 is a no brainer. Every day there are reasons to have more confidence in the town we live in and love – the plans for Public Square, the Flats East Bank Phase II project, the direct liner express from the Port of Cleveland to Europe, more downtown living, the efforts of Global Cleveland, etc. We can't stop now. Our sports teams have brought jobs and great growth and excitement to the City since the Gateway Complex and the new

Browns Stadium were built. Issue 7 is not a tax increase and it is a miniscule tax at that. The tax will pay for major capital improvements that we, the public, have to pay one way or the other due to legal obligations. I also like it that people from outside the County are taxed for the alcohol and cigarettes they buy here. I encourage everyone who supports Cleveland and its positive direction and growth to vote for it.” - **Jan L. Roller, Attorney, Davis & Young.**

“In order for Cleveland to be a major metropolitan city in America today, it is vital that we have major league sports franchises here. Without these, it will be extraordinarily difficult to attract the talented people we need to grow our economy and our region. Passage of Issue 7 allows us to retain our sports franchises and to be competitive with other major metropolitan areas for the talented people we need for our future.” – **Earl M. Leiken, Mayor, City of Shaker Heights.**

“I support Issue 7, a renewal not an increase, which will keep our community strong and the momentum building for Cuyahoga County as a regional leader.”- - **Nickie J. Antonio, Ohio State Representative, District 13.**

“There are thousands of jobs affiliated with our teams and the adjacent businesses that depend upon the fan base for much of their business – the hotels, the restaurants and the bars. Many of those jobs are filled by people who live in Cleveland’s neighborhoods. These three buildings have generated more than \$400 million in local taxes from the games and events that are held there. That money helps us hire police, firefighters and so much more – it helps pay for services in our neighborhoods. These teams are part of our fabric – even if you aren’t a sports fan, or if you are and you are a frustrated Cleveland sports fan, there’s simply no denying that having three major league sports teams in our city it makes our city better. Voting yes for Issue 7 is voting yes for Cleveland’s future.”- **Joe Cimperman, Cleveland Councilman, Ward 3.**

“Just like our museums and cultural institutions, our stadiums and arenas are anchor assets that make Cleveland the great city that it is. Reinvesting in these assets is critical to remaining a competitive city with a vibrant future.”- **Chris Ronayne, President, University Circle Inc.**

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