

CITY OF PETERSBURG

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Incorporated 1910

Feb, 28th 2024

WV State Representatives,
State Capital Complex
Charleston WV, 25305

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to you on behalf of the City of Petersburg, a vibrant community dedicated to the well-being and development of its residents, particularly our youth. Our city is home to 1,421 students who are eager to engage in various sports and recreational activities. However, our capacity to support these activities is severely limited by the lack of adequate facilities. Currently, our two schools are stretched to their limits, accommodating cheerleading, gymnastics, baseball, softball, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, archery, and football programs that range from youth leagues through varsity level. This congestion has resulted in a situation where teams are often left with no choice but to eliminate practice sessions entirely, focusing solely on games.

The impact of the opioid epidemic on Grant County, where Petersburg resides, has been profound and devastating. In these challenging times, it is more critical than ever to provide our youth with healthy, constructive outlets for their energy and ambition. A sports and recreation center in Petersburg would not only offer a safe, drug-free environment for our children to develop physically, it would also foster the growth of invaluable life skills such as teamwork, leadership, and perseverance.

The benefits of such a facility extend beyond the youth; it represents an opportunity for adults in the community to engage as mentors, coaches, and role models. This center would be a beacon of community spirit, bringing together people of all ages in support of a common goal: the holistic development of our younger generation.

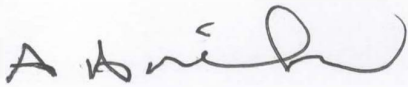
We are acutely aware of the financial challenges involved in undertaking such a project. However, we firmly believe in the transformative power of sports and recreation in building resilient, healthy communities. Thus, we respectfully urge the State of West Virginia to support the City of Petersburg in establishing a sports and recreation center. This investment in our youth is an investment in the future of our community and the state at large.

The proposed facility is not merely a building; it is a commitment to nurturing the potential of every child and adolescent in Petersburg, providing them with the resources they need to thrive in the face of adversity. By fostering a strong sense of community and offering a positive alternative to the streets, we can combat the effects of the opioid crisis and build a brighter future for our children.

We are ready and eager to work closely with state officials, community leaders, and private partners to make this vision a reality. Together, we can create a legacy of health, happiness, and high achievement for generations to come.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this proposal further and to explore the ways in which the State of West Virginia can support the City of Petersburg in this noble endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary A. Michael". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "M".

Gary A.
Michael Mayor