



**ROCKFORD**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
October 28, 2019

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## **HARD ROCK CASINO ROCKFORD SUBMITS CASINO PROPOSAL TO THE ILLINOIS GAMING BOARD**

**Rockford, Ill** – Today, the Hard Rock team joined Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara and the Nielsen family to celebrate the submission of the Hard Rock Casino Rockford proposal to the Illinois Gaming Board.

“As a city, we came together and decided which casino proposal is best for our community,” said Tom McNamara, Mayor of Rockford. “Now the proposal moves on to the Illinois Gaming Board, where we will work to get the Hard Rock license approved so we can get to work generating jobs and tax revenues for the people of Rockford and Illinois.”

“We are grateful to the city for believing in our vision for Rockford, and we couldn’t be more excited to submit our bid to the Illinois Gaming Board. We know a casino will do great things for Rockford, and we look forward to a strong partnership with the community,” said Jon Lucas, Chief Operating Officer of Hard Rock International.

Hard Rock Casino Rockford will be constructed at the intersection of State Street and I-90. It will feature 64,000 feet of gaming space with 1,500 slot machines and 55 table games. Three full-service restaurants, two quick serve restaurants, three standalone bars and lounges, and a 1,600 seat Hard Rock Live entertainment venue will be included. One of the casino’s highlights will involve a Rock Shop carrying signature merchandise branded by Rockford legend and Cheap Trick guitarist, Rick Nielsen.

The Hard Rock Casino Rockford proposal will include 1,200 construction jobs, 1,000 part-time and full-time jobs once in operation, and a minimum annual payment of \$7 million to the City of Rockford in gaming revenue.

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### **About Hard Rock®:**

With venues in 75 countries spanning 259 locations that include owned/licensed or managed Hotels, Casinos, Rock Shops® and Cafes - Hard Rock International (HRI) is one of the most globally recognized companies. Beginning with an Eric Clapton guitar, Hard Rock owns the world's most valuable collection of music memorabilia at more than 83,000 pieces, which are displayed at its locations around the globe. In 2018, Hard Rock International was recognized as a Forbes Magazine Top Employer for Women and

Land Operator of the Year at the Global Gaming Awards. In 2019, Hard Rock International was honored as one of Forbes Magazine's America's Best Large Employers, Forbes Magazine's Top Employers for Women and No. 1 in J.D. Power's 2019 North America Hotel Guest Satisfaction Study among Upper Upscale Hotel Chains. Hard Rock destinations are located in the world's greatest international gateway cities, including its two most successful flagship properties in Florida and home to the world's first Guitar Hotel® in South Florida, where its headquarters are located. The brand is owned by HRI parent entity The Seminole Tribe of Florida. For more information on Hard Rock International visit [www.hardrock.com](http://www.hardrock.com) or [shop.hardrock.com](http://shop.hardrock.com).