



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 17, 2025

LSCP Statement on Sentencing and Restitution from Former GINCC Executive Director

In response to news that the former Executive Director of the now-dissolved Greater Ishpeming-Negaunee Chamber of Commerce (GINCC) has pled guilty and been sentenced, the Lake Superior Community Partnership (LSCP) CEO Christopher Germain issued the following statement:

“The LSCP is aware of the recent sentencing of the former Executive Director of the GINCC and hopes this will provide closure to the disruptions experienced in the western Marquette County business community in late 2023.

The LSCP is proud of the progress made since announcing the [West End Forward](#) initiative in February 2024, an effort to provide an ambitious path for enhancing on-the-ground business and economic development resources in western Marquette County. This includes a fully appointed West End Advisory Council, adopting a West End Services Strategy, hiring a Small Business Promotions Specialist based in the West End, and opening the West End Economic Hub. These efforts have expanded local access to LSCP business and community development resources as well as new events and programs such as the Marquette County Small Business Celebration, which served as an opportunity to highlight western Marquette County businesses through the venue and catering.

It is our understanding that the sentence requires restitution. During its dissolution, the GINCC named the LSCP as the receiver of its assets, including any future assets directed to the organization. Any restitution funds directed to the LSCP will be responsibly used to pay any remaining obligations with the remainder allocated to support the continued operation of the West End Economic Hub. This collaborative space, which now hosts multiple organizations dedicated to fostering positive economic momentum, exemplifies our commitment to advancing the West End Services Strategy and rebuilding trust within the community.”

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Prepared by Christopher Germain. For more information, contact the Lake Superior Community Partnership at (906) 226-6591. The Lake Superior Community Partnership (LSCP) is Marquette County’s local resource for economic development. The LSCP helps our partners make the connections that matter – between businesses, organizations, leaders and legislators, and provides a powerful legislative voice for programs and policies that strengthen our regional economy. More information on the Lake Superior Community Partnership can be found at marquette.org.