Copy Indiana

This is in response to "Whiting swinging for fences: Town considering $7 million complex for baseball museum, sports mascot hall and Standard Oil history" (News, Dec. 1), by Tribune reporter John Owens. After reading this article, on how that small Indiana town is planning to build an extensive sports-themed museum complex on an "abandoned industrial site" near Lake Michigan, I found myself shaking my head in envy and amazement. The project is imaginative and ambitious.

On my side of the state line, the 10th Ward, we also have abandoned industrial sites but little imagination or ambition. Since the early 1980s, when the steel industry went into rapid decline, there has never been, on the part of Chicago's City Hall, a coherent economic redevelopment plan for the neighborhoods of the East Side and Hegewisch.

I'd like to make two suggestions.

First, a swap. Let's send the occupants of City Hall to Whiting in exchange for its elected officials and the members of its planning and development team. Maybe they can come up with plans for the rejuvenation of the Southeast Side.

Second, perhaps this paper can do a story of the economic and environmental plight of 10th Ward, one to parallel what's happening with our nearby, easterly neighbor.

The title for that article? "Chicago strikes out."

— John Vukmirovich, Chicago