

Resolution 97- 119

A RESOLUTION URGING THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU, ST AUGUSTINE/ST JOHNS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, PONTE VEDRA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AND THE MAYORS OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH, AND THE TOWN OF HASTINGS, TO INITIATE TALKS WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN DUVAL COUNTY TO SECURE MAJOR LEAGUE SPRING TRAINING BASEBALL FOR THE FIRST COAST; URGING INCREASED UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPORTANCE OF AND PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS ON THE FIRST COAST; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, a task force of the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council has for three years been laying the groundwork for an attempt to attract several Major League Baseball franchises to make Northeast Florida their spring training home; and

WHEREAS, Northeast Florida has become a sporting Mecca, featuring the headquarters of the men's professional golf and tennis circuits, the now under construction World Golf Village and World Golf Hall of Fame, and the Jacksonville Jaguars; and

WHEREAS, baseball spring training complexes have in recent years begun to move north toward cities like Viera, Kissimmee, and Orlando, making spring training complexes in Northeast Florida more feasible from the perspective of travel; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Weather Service data shows the average monthly mid-day temperature in the region during March is 75 degrees; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast Florida region, with its miles of beautiful beaches, scores of golf courses, historical landmarks, restaurants, shopping, and other attractions, offers a perfect complement to spring training baseball, providing numerous enjoyable activities for players, coaches, and for the thousands of visiting fans following their favorite teams on a daily basis, generating substantial new sales tax revenues from their presence; and

WHEREAS, the spring training presence of four major league baseball teams in Northeast Florida would provide an economic impact in the hundreds of millions of dollars each year; and

WHEREAS, the local residents of our area would be provided with the tremendous opportunity to visit four major league spring training sites, including the enjoyment of attending daily pre-season games throughout the month of March; and

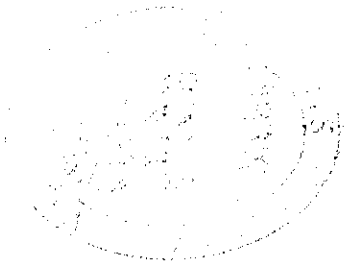
WHEREAS, a number of major league baseball teams have shown interest in exploring the potential for spring training baseball in our region; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County:

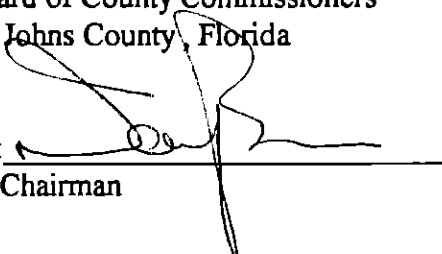
Section 1. That the Board hereby urges the Tourist Development Council, Convention and Visitors Bureau, St. Augustine/St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, Ponte Vedra Chamber of Commerce, and the Mayors of the City of St. Augustine, City of St. Augustine Beach, and Town of Hastings, to initiate immediate contact with their counterparts in Duval County to begin serious discussions relative to securing major league baseball spring training for the newest and most exciting sports region of Florida- the First Coast area.

Section 2. That the Board further urges the Mayors and the aforementioned groups to use this opportunity to further enhance a strong and growing regional relationship with our good neighbors in Duval County, and to use our cooperative efforts to bring future economic growth to our area.

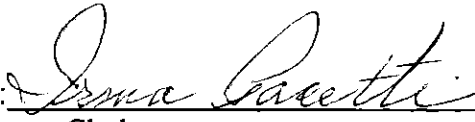
Passed and adopted this 12th day of August, 1997.



Board of County Commissioners
St. Johns County, Florida

By: 
Its Chairman

Attest: Cheryl Strickland, Clerk of Court

By: 
Deputy Clerk