TAB 2
September 29, 2011

The Honorable Shirley Groover Bryant
Mayor of Palmetto
516 8th Avenue West
Palmetto, FL 34220-1209

Dear Mayor Bryant:

We understand and appreciate your concerns in finding a resolution to the issue of replacing the North River American Little League (NRALL) fields for the benefit of our youth leagues. Manatee County shares your concerns; unfortunately, Manatee County has no available funding for this project beyond assisting with providing the land, maintenance of the replacement fields, and serving in an advisory capacity on the design, budget, and construction of the fields and support facilities.

Over the past two years there has been a great deal of effort and a number of options explored. As we are all aware, the preferred option is to build the three little league and one junior/senior baseball fields in a clover leaf shape with the pressbox/concession/restroom in the center. The option that seems to provide the most expedient and cost-effective solution is to add three little league fields in the northeast quadrant of Blackstone Park, including a central concession/restroom/pressbox and parking lot with stormwater ponds. Please refer to the attached proposed layout. Since there is no room and limited funding for the junior/senior league field within the existing park boundary, we recommend sharing the field with Palmetto High School.

It is estimated that the cost to design and construct these fields is +/- $1.4 million. The estimate is based on recent or historical construction costs and includes: three lighted little league fields plus all amenities associated with these fields (bleachers, dugouts, etc.), restroom/concession/pressbox, parking lot (+/- 98 spaces), pedestrian/ADA access sidewalks, and necessary stormwater ponds. As I previously indicated, while we do not have any funds, Manatee County is able to assist with the land for these fields as well as the annual maintenance.

County Administrator's Office
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 1000. Street Address: 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, FL 34206-1000
WEB: www.mymanatee.org * PHONE: 941.745.3717 * FAX: 941.745.3790
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It is our most sincere hope that you will be pleased with the above proposal and we can come to a resolution on this issue. We appreciate all of your efforts for the health and future of our youth. Together, we can continue to be proud of our accomplishments as we strive towards building a stronger community.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 745-3717. Thank you.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ed Hunzeker  
County Administrator

Attachments: Ballfield layout

Cc: Board of County Commissioners  
Karen Windon, Deputy County Administrator  
Cindy Turner, Director, Parks & Recreation Department