WEST VIRGINIA:

At a special session of the County Commission, held for the County of Mercer, at the Courthouse thereof, on Thursday, December 19, 2019.

Present: Gene Buckner, Commissioner

Present: Greg Puckett, Commissioner

Present: Bill Archer, Commissioner

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING**

THE MERCER COUNTY COMMISSION WILL MEET IN SPECIAL SESSION ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2019 AT 10:30 A.M IN THE COMMISSION COURTROOM FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PROGRAM
2. APPOINTMENT OF FIDUCIARY COMMISSIONER
3. OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR-AGREEMENT TO PERFORM FY 2019 AUDIT FOR MERCER COUNTY

**GENE BUCKNER, PRESIDENT**

**MERCER COUNTY COMMISSION**

RE: RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR ROOKIE LEAGUE BASEBALL

This day on motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve a Resolution of Support for Rookie League Baseball.

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR**

**ROOKIE LEAGUE BASEBALL**

**Whereas**, Mercer County, West Virginia has been blessed to host two Advanced Rookie League baseball teams in the Appalachian League including the Bluefield Blue Jays and the Princeton Rays. While the Appalachian League itself dates back to 1911, the coalfields of southern West Virginia, Virginia and surrounding states, the sport of baseball – our true American Past-time – was enjoyed by railroad, logging and coal mining camps throughout the Appalachian Region in the last decades of the 19th Century; and

**Whereas**, the presence of two Rookie League baseball teams in Mercer County represents a substantial component of the local economy during the June through August season in terms of motel occupancy for visiting teams and families, residential rentals, restaurants, hygiene and personal needs. In addition to an economic benefit, the county benefits from quality of life aspects of Rookie League baseball, positive public morale and young athletes who promote countywide goodwill through their participation in fairs and festivals that take place during the season; and

**Whereas**, Major League baseball has benefitted from a myriad of athletes who started their careers in the former Class D Appalachian League including one of the best Major Leaguers of all Time, Stan “The Man” Musial, who started his career with the Williamson Colts in 1938. Others who earned their love of the game in the Appy League include the infamous Bob Bowman of Keystone, WV, a St. Louis pitcher who was banned from professional baseball after (allegedly) beaning NY Giants’ slugger Joe “Ducky Wucky” Medwick on June 19, 1940; and

**Whereas**, another Keystone, WV native, Charlie Manuel, born in 1944, learned his love of the game laboring on the diamonds of Southern West Virginia and Southwestern Virginia and went on to lead the Philadelphia Phillies to a World Series banner in 2008. Manuel returned to the Phillies in 2019 as the hitting coach. In more recent history, Tampa Bay pitcher Blake Snell, who earned Appy League “Pitcher of the Year” honors with the Princeton Rays in 2012, when on to earn Major League’s top pitching honor – The American League Cy Young Award – as a pitcher for the Tampa Bay Rays; and

**Whereas**, another recent All Star with Mercer County Appy League roots – Vladimir Guerrero, Jr. – booted his first infield grounder with the Bluefield Blue Jays on June 23, 2011, but blasted his first homerun the following night. The Rookie Guerrero stole the show at 2019’s All Star Home Run Derby by blasting 91 baseballs into the seats on July 8, 2019, setting a new record for combined at-bats in the competition.

**Now, Therefore Be It Resolved** that the Mercer County Commission is committed to Rookie League baseball in our county. In addition, this commission wishes to join its voice with the voices of other baseball fans throughout the Appalachian Region to urge Major League Baseball to reconsider its plan to eliminate some or all of its Rookie League affiliates in the near future. In Mercer County, professional baseball remains a popular, affordable, family-oriented pastime. It is this commission’s prayer that it will remain as such for future generations to enjoy.

**DATED THIS 19TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2019**

**MERCER COUNTY COMMISSION:** /s/ Gene Buckner\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Gene Buckner, President**

/s/ Greg Puckett\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Greg Puckett, Commissioner**

/s/ Bill Archer\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Bill Archer, Commissioner**

RE: WV STATE AUDITOR & CHIEF INSPECTOR ENGAGEMENT LETTER

This day on motion of Gene Buckner, Commissioner, seconded by Bill Archer, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to accept the West Virginia State Auditor & Chief Inspector Engagement Letter to perform the FY 2018/2019 audit for Mercer County in the amount of $35,600.

RE: EXECUTIVE SESSION

This day on motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to go into executive session. On motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to come out of executive session and go back into regular session. No votes were taken during the executive session.

RE: APPOINTMENT OF FIDUCIARY COMMISSIONER

This day on motion of Gene Buckner, Commissioner, seconded by Bill Archer, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to Appoint Randall Veneri as Fiduciary Commissioner.

It is ordered that this Commission be and is hereby adjourned until Tuesday, January 14, 2020.

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