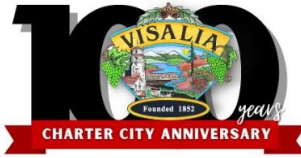


City of



Visalia

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**Summary of Matter and Facts
Regarding Rawhide Baseball and the City of Visalia*
January 6, 2024**

In an effort to provide the public with an accurate statement of the circumstances surrounding a lease entered into with a private business to use the public ballpark, the City is providing this information. While it was previously shared that the City would not be providing any additional comment given that mediation** is confidential, and both parties have legal options in this matter, it's been made clear that it is in the public interest to share facts pertaining to this matter.

It is important to emphasize the City has always supported baseball in Visalia financially, and in spirit, and continues to do so. The Rawhide pay \$1 a year for the lease to use the ballpark. The City provides \$300,000 annually in subsidy (improvements and operational costs) and provides major maintenance per the contract. Since 2003, the City of Visalia has invested over \$15 million in capital improvements to the stadium. These improvements have included, but are not limited to, club house remodel, field and grandstand improvements, lighting and video scoreboard.

Since the ruling on December 22, 2023, the City has twice requested that First Pitch Entertainment, LLC join with the City in mediation discussions. Those requests have both been rejected. The issue here concerns whether Major League Baseball, who took over Minor League Baseball after the lease was entered into, has the right to dictate how much taxpayer money will be spent on the public ballpark to the benefit of a private, for profit business. A recent court ruling has confirmed the City's position that the City did not give up its fiscal responsibility as custodians of public funds to determine the amount of money to be spent on the ballpark.

It seems that Major League Baseball has put the owners of First Pitch Entertainment, and the City of Visalia, in a very difficult, unfortunate, and expensive situation. Major League Baseball contacted the City on January 4, 2024 about discussing the situation. Due to the current legal process, and the fact that First Pitch has a contract with MLB and the City does not, the City believes the most appropriate way for MLB to participate in finding solutions is with all the parties present in mediation. On January 5, the City informed the Major League Baseball representatives that their participation would be welcome if and when First Pitch accepts the City's invitation to return to mediation.

For a summary of information on the City of Visalia and Rawhide Baseball, visit www.visalia.city/summary.

**Please note, this Summary does not include all key meetings and communications undertaken over the last three years. It is intended to provide information and key facts regarding Rawhide Baseball and the City of Visalia.*

***Mediation, dispute resolution method with a neutral, third party that helps parties find a solution to issues in conflict.*