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Media contact: Crystal Pruitt, 941-861-5900; cell 941-650-0695; cpruitt@scgov.net

Sarasota County signs Baltimore Orioles for spring training

Sarasota County commissioners Wednesday approved a memorandum of understanding with the Baltimore Orioles to Sarasota County for spring training. The Orioles intend to train in Sarasota in 2010. The agreement was approved after Sarasota City Commissioners approved an agreement transferring Ed Smith Stadium to the county in a special meeting.

Specific terms of the agreement include:

- 30-year lease term.
- Renovation/expansion of Ed Smith Stadium and major league baseball areas at Twin Lakes Park.
- Continuation of many historic uses at Ed Smith Stadium.
- Promotion of Sarasota County in the Baltimore/Washington metro area.
- A proposed Orioles and Cal Ripken Baseball youth academy at Twin Lakes Park.

Major funding elements include:

- Cost to renovate and expand stadium and other facilities - \$31.2 million.
- Orioles pay all operating and maintenance costs for the term of the lease.
- Sarasota County and the Orioles contribute equally to a capital repairs and improvements fund.

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