

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

CITY OF LOWELL

In City Council

RESOLUTION

The City Council of the City of Lowell wishes to be recorded in support of retaining the Red Sox affiliates, Lowell Spinners in Lowell, Massachusetts.

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Recently, Major League Baseball (MLB) proposed a radical reorganization of minor leagues which would eliminate 25 percent of its short season and rookie ball clubs.

In 2019, over 40 million fans attended minor league games.

Lowell is home to the *Lowell Spinners*, a minor league, *Red Sox* affiliate, that could be eliminated pursuant to MLB's proposed reorganization.

The *Spinners* are in their 25<sup>th</sup> season playing in a ballpark and stadium built with and maintained by public funds.

In recent years, the City of Lowell has continued to make significant investments in the ballpark to meet MLB's standards and requirements. Among these investments were state of the art LED field lights; extended protective netting to ensure player and fan safety; and new turf for the playing field. Together these projects totaled over 1.6 million.

To date, the City of Lowell has spent Tens of Millions dollars on the ballpark.

In turn, the *Spinners* organization have annually donated nearly a half of million dollars to local organizations contributing to scholarships; educational development; at-risk youths; military and veteran organizations; and culturally diverse communities.

The *Spinners* have also provided critical support for the *Red Sox* organization, developing 119 major league players, many of whom were part of their World Series wins; as well as many of the *Spinners'* former players winning some of baseball's highest individual honors.

Critical to the success of the Stadium and the *Spinners'* organization are their fans, and critical to the *Spinners'* fan-base is their *Red Sox* affiliation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the City Council of the City of Lowell strongly encourage Major League Baseball to abandon all plans to eliminate minor league teams, and to instead maintain the Lowell-Spinners-Red Sox partnership.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF January, 2020.

Submitted by:

CITY COUNCIL - CITY OF LOWELL

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