Coach,

Lee County Parks and Recreation cordially invites you and your team to play in the Gene Cusic Collegiate Baseball Classic in the "City of Palms" Fort Myers, Florida. If you have not decided where to play your spring break baseball games next year, Lee County Parks and Recreation would like for you to consider the "Cusic."

In the plans for 2017 is a series of three or four local high school player workouts. Local high school juniors and seniors with above average GPAs will be showcasing their talent one afternoon/evening each week exclusively for the Cusic baseball coaches. The showcases will be run by the local high school baseball coaches from Lee, Collier, Hendry, Glades and Charlotte counties and Lee County Parks and Recreation. Cusic coaches will have the opportunity to develop relationships with local coaches and track players that could fill needs in their programs. Participants will be timed in the 60-yard dash, take batting practice, Outfielders will throw from right field to home plate, Infielders will throw from shortstop to first base, first basemen will throw to third base, pop times will be recorded for Catchers and Pitchers will throw in the bullpen.

For the past 25 years, we have welcomed college and university baseball teams to southwest Florida. The dates for the 2017 "Cusic" will be February 25th through March 25th. Our prices are the lowest in the state at $100 per game and there is not a registration fee. In addition, we provide all of the game balls and provide each team with 1 two hour practice free of charge. For the fans that come and support your team, there is never a fee for parking and admission to the games. "Cusic" games are played at the Player Development Complex and Terry Park.

The Player Development Complex is where the Boston Red Sox used to train and practice from 1993-2011. The Red Sox left this facility for jetBlue Park that opened at the beginning of the 2012 Spring Training season. This complex includes: five baseball fields with bullpens, eight batting tunnels.

Terry Park began in 1921 when the Terry Family donated approximately 25-acres of cow pasture to Lee County. Amidst nothing but bulls and heifers, a small wooden grandstand, seating no more than 600 fans was erected. Starting with Connie Mack's Philadelphia Athletics in 1925 and ending with George Brett's Kansas City Royals in 1987, Terry Park has hosted some of the game's greatest teams and players. Hall of Famers Jimmy Foxx, Bob Feller, Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, and Roberto Clemente are just a few of the great players that have graced the field at Terry Park.

The Philadelphia Athletics were the first major league team to play at Terry Park and were followed by the Cleveland Indians, Pittsburgh Pirates and the Kansas City Royals. In 1995 the ball field was placed on the National Register of Historical Places by the United States Department of the Interior. The memorial stadium was dedicated to Park T. Pigott (1914-1972) in recognition of his lifetime of service, through sports, to the youth of this community. Lee County Parks & Recreation celebrated the 100 year anniversary of Terry Park in 2006.

It is requested that all teams stay in approved lodging reserved through Lee County Sports Housing to ensure a great hotel experience. Lee County Sports Housing offers a hotel hotline to make reservations easy. They work with all types of accommodations from economy style motels and inns to full service hotels, suites or even beachfront condos. You can call toll free **1-888-529-6588** or at leecountysportshousing.org/index to reserve your rooms. They will work with your team's budget, preferences and game sites to find the best hotel fit for you.

Please consider coming down next spring and enjoy some spring baseball southwest Florida style. Register now at leegov.com/parks/athletics/cusic and have until November 1st to make your payment. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Your Cusic baseball staff,

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