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Response from Oakland City Administrator to correct the record regarding the Oakland A's project at Bushrod Park

Oakland, CA — The City of Oakland has worked on many successful projects with the Oakland A's and the Good Tidings Foundation in the past, and over the last 10 years we have brought in more than \$20 million in outside funding for Capital Improvement work and programming at parks and recreation facilities. The Oakland Parks and Recreation Department (OPR) was approached on February 28 with the Bushrod Park project and saw it as an opportunity with a lot of promise.

Our staff and department leaders set to diligent work, and despite many complicating factors and requests, we were ready to move forward on the proposal within 17 working days. On March 24, OPR was notified that Good Tidings instructed Bothman Construction not to procure payment and performance bonds for the project, which are required per the City of Oakland's Municipal Code and State regulations regarding Public Works contracts.

On March 27, the City of Oakland received notification that the Oakland A's would not be moving forward with the project based on requirements put forward by the City which are part of a regulatory framework (civil code and the City Charter) that we are legally required to work within. This framework has been in place for years, and it is designed to promote maximum community access to the use of public space. As with any substantial changes proposed for public property, we are responsible for ensuring that the changes went through a transparent, accountable process. More than 5,500 people use Bushrod Park every year, and changing the size of the field would affect those people's use of the space.

We are excited about this project and at the same time we have a responsibility to give the public a chance to weigh in. Our process here is the same as it has been in the past for similar proposals. City officials had already set a meeting with the Oakland A's to discuss solutions together prior to this issue's coverage in local media. We look forward to continued discussions with the A's and working together to arrive at a solution that serves Oakland children and our community as a whole.

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