

Cleveland Indians Keep Cleveland Schools' Ballplayers "At Bat"
Demonstrating Valuable Partnership Between Cleveland's Teams and Its Communities

CLEVELAND – May 5, 2014 – A new video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jGH-MwJCkgA&feature=youtu.be>) exemplifies the partnership between Cleveland's teams and the public by shedding light on the quiet effort the Cleveland Indians have made for more than a decade to keep Cleveland Municipal School District's (CMSD) baseball and softball programs alive.

After learning budget cuts were placing CMSD's baseball and softball programs on the chopping block, Indians owner Larry Dolan immediately agreed to sponsor them.

"Whatever it takes— let's do it," Dolan said. "Tell them the Cleveland Indians will completely fund all Cleveland public schools boys baseball and girls softball programs."

And just like that, the Indians began a sponsorship effort, in which they have invested \$2.5 million during the last decade, allowing thousands of CMSD students to reap the benefits of organized team sports.

Cleveland professional sports has been a partnership between the teams and the public for decades. Cleveland's major league sports teams have made other similar commitments to Cuyahoga County communities as part of their commitment to this partnership. Cleveland's three major league teams have affected the lives of tens of thousands of Greater Clevelanders, through their contributions of tens of millions of dollars and thousands of volunteer hours to hundreds of not-for-profit organizations.

Tomorrow, May 6, 2014, the public faces a vote on that partnership. Voting YES on Issue 7 helps support and extend this partnership.

Issue 7 is the proposed extension of Cuyahoga County's small excise tax on alcohol and cigarettes. Issue 7 is not a tax increase. Residents and visitors would continue to pay the same amount that they have paid for the last 24 years: 1.5 cents per beer and 4.5 cents for a pack of cigarettes.

The public owns Cleveland's three sports facilities. None of the money generated by Issue 7 will go to team owners. All revenue from Issue 7 would be used to finance repairs and improvements to Cleveland's three major league sports facilities.

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