

RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE PRESERVATION OF TINKER FIELD

WHEREAS, Tinker Field, controlled for a century by the City of Orlando, occupies approximately 3 acres of the 7-acre Tinker Field baseball complex, which in turn is part of the Citrus Bowl or Orlando Sports Arena Complex; and

WHEREAS, the boundaries of the property encompass the historic playing field (including the diamond, infield and outfield, as well as the surface grass from 1914) and the renovated Stadium of 1963-1964; and

WHEREAS, the Stadium contains over 1000 seats relocated during the 1963-64 renovation by the legendary Cal Griffiths from his Washington Stadium; and

WHEREAS, the Stadium was again renovated as recently as 1990 after the construction of the now-demolished Amway Arena; and

WHEREAS, Tinker Field was created and named after beloved Orlando resident Joe Tinker, a Major League Baseball Hall of Fame player who was a member of the Chicago Cubs dynasty between 1906 and 1910; and was first used to play baseball in 1914; and

WHEREAS, the first known stadium was built on the site in 1923 and hosted many baseball greats like Babe Ruth, Jackie Robinson, Lou Gehrig, and Hank Aaron; and

WHEREAS, one of the most historic events to take place at Tinker Field was a visit by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1964, on his only visit to Orlando, when he spoke from the pitcher's mound to a racially mixed audience of thousands seated together in the very grandstand, which is still in place in the current stadium; and

WHEREAS, On May 14, 2004, Tinker Field was added to the U. S. National Register of Historic Places;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Orange County Democratic Executive Committee calls upon Mayor Dyer and the City Council of Orlando to direct staff to more thoroughly research the potential uses for the field and the historic grandstand; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Orange County Democratic Executive Committee calls upon the City of Orlando to take whatever steps may be necessary to ensure that the original venue is preserved and recognized for its intrinsic value to the sports, civil rights, and cultural history of Orlando; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Orange County Democratic Executive Committee calls upon the City of Orlando, Orange County and any other interested parties, both public and private, to develop a plan for the preservation and use of the facility.

Adopted this _____ day of February, 2015

Patricia Rumph, OCDEC Secretary