



**For Immediate Release**  
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### **MJBL CLASSIC RETURNS TO GREENSBORO, NC**

GREENBORO, NC – Kenneth Free, Sr., Chairman of the Board for the Metropolitan Junior Baseball League (MJBL), has fostered a partnership with the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission to bring the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual MJBL Inner City Classic back to Greensboro this year on July 28, 2010 – August 1, 2010. Mr. Free, who serves on the Recreation Council of Greensboro and is known for his extended tenure as the MEAC Commissioner, has been instrumental in having the 2010 Classic in Greensboro, North Carolina. Free stated, “I’m extremely pleased that our city will be hosting this outstanding event. I hope city officials realize the value of having the Classic here, and hopefully, they will make every effort to have the tournament in Greensboro for years to come”. Greensboro Parks and Recreation Director, Greg Jackson said “On behalf of the City of Greensboro and the Greensboro Parks & Recreation Department, we welcome the Metropolitan Junior Baseball League as they host the 20th Annual Inner City Classic at a variety of our outstanding sports complexes. We value this partnership and look forward to working together to ensure another successful tournament for both participants and spectators.” Negotiations between Jackson and Free ensured that the Classic remained here in the City of Greensboro for at least one more year.

Currently, MJBL has 17 states, Nassau, Bahamas, Grand Bahamas, and Puerto Rico that participate in the league, and each of these states are eligible to send representatives to compete in the Classic. MJBL North Carolina is headed up by Ledyke Yates who serves as the state’s commissioner, and he is in the process of conducting an elimination tournament to determine the teams that will represent North Carolina in the annual championship event. Last year’s Classic drew over 50 teams, and this year, MJBL league officials are estimating a sizeable increase in the number of teams that will attend. The age groups participating include 10 and under, 12 and under, which is dubbed the Black World Series, 14 and under, 16 and under and 19 and under. The 19 and under championship game is named in honor of the late Dr. William Bell. Dr. William Bell was a former Aggie, Tuskegee airman and a pioneer for African-Americans in Division I sports. “Dr. Bell’s legacy exemplifies the characteristics we want to expose our youth to during our annual events”, said Ken Free. Free also noted that the kids will attend the Woolworth’s and Civil Rights Museum.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Bobby Bonds Memorial Symposium will be a part of the Classic activities. The symposium will be held at Henderson Hall on the campus of North Carolina A&T State University at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 29, 2010. The symposium annually addresses issues that plague the African-American community and explores how education and the game of baseball can help remedy some of these issues. Former MLB players, including Mookie Wilson, and community leaders have come together in past symposiums for this enlightening discussion.

Please contact Ledyke Yates at 336.509.7771 or via email at [nccomm@mjbl.org](mailto:nccomm@mjbl.org) for more information concerning signing up teams and players or volunteering for the MJBL NC program.

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Photo courtesy of Greensboro Parks & Recreation: (pictured left to right) LeDyke Yates, MJBL NC State Commissioner; Greg Jackson, Greensboro Parks & Recreation Director; Kenneth Free, Sr., MJBL Chairman of the Board; and John Hughes, Youth & Community Programs Manager for Greensboro Parks & Recreation