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News Release

Chicago Cubs, City of Mesa Sign Memorandum of Understanding *City of Mesa will have first opportunity to remain Cubs' Spring Training home*

Mesa, AZ – The City of Mesa and the Chicago Cubs have today reached an agreement that gives the city and the State of Arizona an exclusive period to conclude a deal to remain the team's Spring Training home.

Chicago Cubs owners Tom and Laura Ricketts joined city officials, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer and members of the state legislature on Wednesday, Jan. 27 to make the announcement at the Arizona State Capitol.

"Cubs players and fans deserve the best Spring Training facility in baseball," said Cubs Chairman Tom Ricketts. "The signing of this memorandum of understanding reflects our 57-year tradition in Arizona. There is much hard work ahead and we appreciate the commitment of the State of Arizona and the City of Mesa to explore it together."

The Cubs first moved to Arizona for Spring Training in 1952. On Monday, the Mesa City Council unanimously passed a non-binding memorandum of understanding (MOU) that allows the city to move forward with negotiations to retain the Cubs for an additional 25 years. The Cubs current contract with the City of Mesa expires in 2016, but they can opt-out as early as February 2010. The MOU spells out the proposed plan for the team's facility focused on Spring Training and year-round player development activities.

The "Wrigleyville West" proposal features a 100-acre-plus complex with, among other things, a new stadium that seats up to 15,000 fans, parking, commercial development, training facilities and four practice fields to be used by both the Cubs and Mesa residents during non-Spring Training periods. A site is yet to be determined and several locations are being studied.

"It's important to note this will be a partnership between the Cubs, the City of Mesa and the State of Arizona," said Mesa Mayor Scott Smith. "The Cubs ownership has stepped up to the plate to be an active partner and developer of this project."

According to an economic impact study conducted by The Maguire Company, had the team decided to leave, the state would experience a \$137.8 million annual loss, as well as the loss of more than 1,500 jobs.

“Spring Training baseball provides a huge economic boost to Arizona every year. It’s important to do our part to make sure the state continues to reap the benefits from a strong Cactus League,” said Arizona Governor Jan Brewer. “Keeping the Chicago Cubs in Arizona is a starting lineup that combines jobs, baseball, hot dogs and fun in the sun.”

Arizona Representative John McComish, who has been a long-time supporter of the Cactus League in Arizona said, "It makes strong economic sense to keep the Cubs for Mesa, the East Valley and, indeed, the state."

The signing of the MOU is only the first step in the process. The next step will be the passage of a bill by the Arizona Legislature to approve the use of tourism surcharges to fund part of the complex. Mesa voters will then need to vote on this issue in the November 2010 election.

Senator John McCain has offered his support for the proposal. In a statement, Senator McCain said, “The Cubs are Arizona’s adopted treasure, a source of pride for Mesa and a vital part of our tourism economy.”

To support Arizona’s effort to keep the Cubs, please visit www.CubsWinInAZ.com, follow the effort on Twitter [@CubsWinInAZ](https://twitter.com/CubsWinInAZ) and become a friend on Facebook (search “Cubs Win in AZ”).

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About City of Mesa

The City of Mesa’s estimated population is over 460,000 within an incorporated area of approximately 133 square miles. Total land area encompasses 182 square miles. The City ranks as the 38th most populous city in the United States, larger than the cities of Kansas City, Miami, St. Louis and Pittsburgh. Mesa is a favorite destination to thousands of visitors with more than 300 sun-filled days a year and average temperature of 72.6 degrees. The area’s economy is driven by four major industries healthcare, education, aerospace, and tourism. Mesa is home to two award-winning airports, Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport and Falcon Field Airport. For more information about the City of Mesa go to mesaaz.gov.