



# Board of Commissioners

*Jason W. Boyd, Administrator*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** January 27, 2022  
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## **COMMISSIONERS APPROVE LIGHTING UPGRADES FOR LAKE COUNTY CAPTAINS STADIUM**

The Board of Commissioners, at its January 27, 2022 meeting, authorized an agreement with the City of Eastlake to fund lighting upgrades using the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program, a part of the American Rescue Plan (ARPA).

In 2020, the Lake County Captains Stadium went dark as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It could not have hit at a worst possible time for the Captains as their last games were played Labor Day weekend of 2019 and facility planning was in progress to stay in compliance with Major League Baseball.

As owner of the baseball facility, the City of Eastlake is tasked with maintaining the stadium. The COVID-19 pandemic placed a significant economic burden on the operating revenues associated with the City of Eastlake and the Captains.

“The Commissioners fully realize the importance of the Captains to Lake County. The great American pastime provides social and economic value to our County by attracting thousands of visitors on an annual basis. I fully support the City and Captains and look forward to their presence for years to come,” said Commission President John R. Hamercheck.

Currently, the field lighting levels are not in compliance with the standards established by the Major League Baseball Association and must be in compliance by 2023. The estimated cost is \$650,000-\$700,000 with a completion anticipated by Opening Day of the 2022 season.

“The Commissioners are grateful to the City of Eastlake and the Captains ownership for their commitment to our County, and I am excited to support this project for the long-term benefits it brings to our residents and local businesses,” noted Commissioner John Plecnik.

“Lake County is blessed to have a variety of destinations for our residents and visitors to enjoy. From our parks, museum, wineries and baseball, Lake County has something for everyone,” said Commissioner Ron Young.

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The ARPA program provides eligibility for projects that address negative economic impacts of the pandemic to industries such as tourism, travel and hospitality. The Captains and the stadium are a significant generator of tourism dollars for Lake County including contributing to the local bed tax which revenue promotes travel and tourism throughout Lake County. In addition to baseball, the stadium attracts approximately 200,000 people on an annual basis.

“Eastlake and it’s residents have invested a lot of money into the stadium and are grateful that the Commissioners are willing to help. I look forward to our continued working relationship,” said City of Eastlake Mayor Dennis Morley.

This is the third ARPA project approved by the County Commissioners since receiving the funds in the Summer of 2021. The County will receive \$44.7 million from the Federal program. All funds shall be obligated in accordance to Department of Treasury guidance by 2024 and spent by December of 2026.

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