

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Minor League Baseball Plans to Come to Spartanburg as Part of Proposed Downtown Development Project**

*New stadium in downtown Spartanburg would be the future home of a Texas Rangers-affiliated club*

**SPARTANBURG, S.C.** (May 22, 2023) – A consortium of public and private sector partners today announced that a new baseball stadium is planned for construction in downtown Spartanburg and would be the future home of a Minor League Baseball affiliate of the Texas Rangers, currently playing as the Down East Wood Ducks in Kinston, N.C.

This project results from a partnership between the [City of Spartanburg](#), [Spartanburg County](#), the [State of South Carolina](#), [OneSpartanburg, Inc.](#), [The Johnson Group](#), and [Diamond Baseball Holdings](#) (DBH), an organization that owns and operates select minor league clubs affiliated with Major League Baseball (MLB), and which recently announced the acquisition of the Down East Wood Ducks.

The proposed state-of-the-art stadium, developed by The Johnson Group and designed by Overland Partners, would be owned by the City of Spartanburg. Diamond Baseball Holdings is the club's new majority owner and would lease the stadium from the City of Spartanburg. Robins & Morton would serve as the general contractor for construction of the stadium. The team could begin playing in Spartanburg as soon as the 2025 Minor League Baseball season.

With 3,500 fixed seats and a 5,000+ square foot Club Room, the new stadium would also serve as a year-round venue for public and private events. In addition to the stadium, the 16-acre mixed-use site in downtown Spartanburg would include multifamily housing units, office space, and entertainment options as part of a \$250M+ development project.

### **QUOTES:**

"This is a great day for Spartanburg. My colleagues on City Council and I are excited to work with The Johnson Group and Diamond Baseball Holdings to bring this transformative vision to fruition. It will be terrific to bring affiliated professional baseball back to Spartanburg. Additional affordable family entertainment coupled with needed white collar office space and other world class amenities will ensure Downtown Spartanburg is an increasingly impactful economic engine for this region. That benefits all residents of our City and County."

**- Jerome Rice, Mayor of the City of Spartanburg**

"As Spartanburg County continues to grow, it is very exciting to see investments such as this being made in our community. The new stadium will deliver an economic boost to downtown Spartanburg and the

surrounding areas, and create a hub of family friendly entertainment in our home county. I am excited and proud to watch this much anticipated project come to life.”

**- Manning Lynch, Chairman of Spartanburg County Council**

“Spartanburg will greatly benefit from the funding our state has allocated for this exciting economic development project. The construction of a new minor league baseball stadium in their downtown area is a wonderful example of the private and public sectors working collaboratively to create a meaningful impact within a community.”

**- Murrell Smith, Speaker of the S.C. House of Representatives**

“The vision and cooperation between the public and private sector in Spartanburg should be an example for the entire state of South Carolina. We are happy the State was able to be a partner in this extraordinary downtown project.”

**- Bruce Bannister, Chairman of the S.C. House Ways & Means Committee**

“Spartanburg wins with this terrific and exciting news. Cheers to The Johnson Group for the foresight and action. The State of South Carolina is proud to be a part of the team effort.”

**- Max Hyde, S.C. House Representative from Spartanburg**

“Leveraging key acreage to transform the City’s western gateway, this multi-faceted project aligns perfectly with the 2017- 2026 OneSpartanburg Vision Plan. Strategic programming within a state-of-the-art entertainment amenity, more multi-family housing, and Class A office product not only build a next level Downtown Spartanburg but also help recruit knowledge-based jobs and top tier talent. This project affirms the notion that economic opportunity abounds when local and state governments work in tandem with the private sector. Clearly, there is no better time than now to live, visit, or invest in Spartanburg.”

**- Allen Smith, President and CEO of OneSpartanburg, Inc.**

“We are thrilled to work with DBH to bring Minor League Baseball back to Spartanburg as part of a major downtown development project to propel economic growth in our hometown community. This collective effort will have a transformative impact on Spartanburg – supporting our city’s current growth, drawing families into the heart of downtown, continuing our rich history of professional baseball, and serving as a hub for entertainment and broader economic activity throughout our area for years to come.”

**- Geordy Johnson, CEO of The Johnson Group, a family of companies based in Spartanburg**

“The Texas Rangers look forward to working with DBH and The Johnson Group as they move forward on the stadium project in Spartanburg. We are excited about having our minor league affiliate in a tremendous new facility in the next couple of years. At the same time, we want to thank the City of Kinston for their tremendous support and assistance of the Wood Ducks franchise since 2017. It has been a great partner during this run, and we will be working with DBH to explore options to keep baseball being played at Grainger Stadium in the future.”

**- Neil Leibman, Texas Rangers President of Business Operations and Chief Operating Officer**

“The new stadium is an exciting next step for Minor League Baseball and for the future of Spartanburg. We are grateful to The Johnson Group and the City of Spartanburg for partnering in this endeavor with us, and for our strong continuing relationship with the Texas Rangers and MLB. DBH also thanks the Kinston community for its support of the Wood Ducks.”

**- Pat Battle and Peter Freund, Executive Chairman and CEO, respectively, of Diamond Baseball Holdings**

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