



**OFFICE OF MAYOR ANDY SCHOR**  
124 W. Michigan Avenue – Ninth Floor  
Lansing, MI 48933

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**MEDIA CONTACT: Valerie Marchand**  
517-230-4904

## **Mayor Schor to Host Baseballpalooza as Part of Baseball’s “Play Ball Summer”**

*The U.S. Conference of Mayors is supporting Major League Baseball, Minor League Baseball, USA Baseball and USA Softball’s initiative to provide play opportunities to youth in communities across America & Puerto Rico City*

LANSING – Mayor Schor will host Lansing youth in Baseballpalooza on Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Gier Park starting at 2:30PM, as part of the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) continued support of the “PLAY BALL SUMMER” initiative, which focuses on the fun nature of baseball and encourages an active and healthy lifestyle for kids in all communities. During the Summer of 2018 Mayors are implementing the initiative throughout cities with the goal of strengthening the connection of communities with the National Pastime.

Baseballpalooza includes scrimmage games for teams that participate in the Lansing Parks and Recreation Wildcat baseball program for ages 11-12. This format offers teams some additional practice time and gives us an opportunity to train City umpires and scorekeepers in a game setting.

Mayors across the country are hosting activities with a baseball and softball theme to engage citizens, families, and city departments through individual and community events (such as playing catch, running bases in the backyard, family gatherings, park and recreation activities, business-supported activities, etc.). These activities will be focused on exposing children to baseball and softball while providing a fun opportunity to remain active throughout the summer.

“I am excited to throw the first pitch to kick off Baseballpalooza and cheer on Lansing’s youth baseball players,” said Mayor Andy Schor. “Baseball is a great sport for kids to learn teamwork, make friends and get active. I am proud to say that the Lansing Parks and Recreation Department offers a fantastic youth baseball program for Lansing area kids.”

The PLAY BALL SUMMER initiative with the USCM focuses on recruiting cities to promote and support PLAY BALL through the use of baseball or softball-related activities. Primary

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targets are cities with Major League and Minor League Baseball clubs, although the initiative toolkit and self-reporting strategy will be electronically distributed to hundreds of cities across the country with the assistance of Major League Baseball.

Local leaders and citizens will report their activities to PLAYBALL.org via usmayors.org. The site provides parents, coaches and kids with information on how to get involved with PLAY BALL activities as well as how to join community baseball and softball leagues. Coaching tips and video tutorials from Major League Baseball players and coaches are also a prominent component of the site.

For more information and to apply please visit [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org).

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