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**Media contact:** Crystal Pruitt, 941-861-5900; cell 941-650-0695; [cpruitt@scgov.net](mailto:cpruitt@scgov.net)

**Project contact:** Dave Bullock, 941-861-5293; [dbullock@scgov.net](mailto:dbullock@scgov.net)

**MEDIA NOTE: A copy of the court ruling is attached.**

## Florida Supreme Court affirms ruling on Sunshine Law, Spring Training bonds

The Florida Supreme Court ruled today that Sarasota County did not violate the Florida Sunshine Law regarding negotiations and agreement with the Baltimore Orioles. The court affirmed the trial court's ruling that a proposed bond issue to finance improvements to baseball facilities in the county is valid and can proceed. In addition, the Supreme Court ruled the memorandum of understanding between the county and the Baltimore Orioles is legal and remains in effect.

The Sarasota County Commission will consider authorizing the bond issue during its Nov. 16 meeting.

"Sarasota County is committed to following the principles of the Sunshine Law and open government and we followed those principles in our discussion with the Orioles," said Deputy County Administrator Dave Bullock, the county's lead negotiator with the team. "Our stadium project will continue to create jobs for people who need them and carry on the long tradition of spring training baseball here, which will result in further economic benefits to the community."

The spring training project at the Ed Smith Stadium Complex in downtown Sarasota and the Buck O'Neill Complex at Twin Lakes Park is expected to create over 260 jobs, with a value of \$11.2 million, and produce nearly \$29 million in local expenditures. The project is expected to be completed in March 2011.

For more information, visit [www.scgov.net](http://www.scgov.net) or call the Sarasota County Call Center at 861-5900.

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