

DATE: September 3, 2015
TO: Florida Building Commission
FROM: Andrew Newman, P.E.
RE: **BALLPARK OF THE PALM BEACHES**
• Accessibility Waiver for Major League Baseball Facilities

To Whom It May Concern,

The Ballpark of the Palm Beaches will serve as the new spring training facility for the Washington Nationals and Houston Astros of Major League Baseball. Significant portions of the building will be for use by active Major League Baseball players. These areas include, locker rooms, training areas, hot tubs, saunas, etc.

The portions of the facility used for offices, Minor League Baseball, and areas open to the public will be constructed to meet 100-percent of the accessibility provisions of the State of Florida. However, the Owner would like to not provide certain accessible features for the building if they will only be used by Major League Baseball.

The use of the building is highly specific. Typical workplaces must be capable of being accessible as to not present a bias to potential future hires that may be disabled. However, this building's Major League Baseball-dedicated areas will only be utilized by elite athletes. By nature, for example, a wheelchair bound person will not need to utilize the locker room as a wheelchair-bound person would not be physically capable of performing the job of being a professional baseball player. Due to this, creating an accessible environment in the specified areas an unnecessary hardship both due to cost and building design.

Howe Engineers, Inc. believes a waiver should be granted to the spaces used specifically for Major League Baseball.

Please contact of our office if you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the items addressed in this letter.

Prepared by,



Andrew Newman, P.E.
Principal

