

February 3, 1954.

Charles C. Jewett, City Manager,
City of Vero Beach,
Florida.

Dear Mr. Jewett:

I was delighted with your cordial letter of January 29th, and the splendid resolution enclosed. I know it will be a pleasure to work with your committee. Sometimes I wonder if people really appreciate just how serious and proud we are to have the largest baseball training camp in the world located in Vero Beach. I know a number of my associates thought I was going soft when I decided to build a stadium in Vero Beach on property that we did not even own. I felt that the stadium would be a fine monument to the City of Vero Beach even if the Dodgers for some reason moved elsewhere. We have enjoyed excellent cooperation and understanding with the people of Vero Beach and we shall do everything possible to continue that fine relationship. I am enclosing a schedule of the games that we propose to play in Vero Beach this spring. With a few exceptions these games are reported back to the various cities of the participating clubs under Vero Beach date lines. This, of course, is terrific and wholesome publicity. During the early period of the camp and on the occasions when the Dodgers return to Vero Beach for major league games the most important sports writers in the country will be in attendance as well as radio crews. The significance of all of this is important to get across to the local merchants, citizens and service clubs.

One of the things I will discuss with the committee and subsequently after they have reported to the City Council is our plan to explain our occupancy of the property. We hope to bring several hundred youngsters into the camp during the months of July and August for a summer athletic recreational camp. This should be an excellent move at a time when I know intelligent efforts are being made to publicize Vero Beach as a summer resort as well as a winter haven. I believe the year will come when one of the great umpire schools will be located at Dodgertown as well as pre-spring training clinics for the amateur leaders of Little

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League and amateur junior baseball. All of these I believe are steps in the proper direction and I do hope the civic response is cordial as it always has been.

Be good enough to extend our greetings to Mayor Bauer and the new members of the City Council, some of whom we would like to have visit us regularly during spring training.

Yours sincerely,

Walter F. O'Malley,
President.

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