



JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR.  
MAYOR

*City of Charleston*  
*South Carolina*

BARBARA W. VAUGHN  
DIRECTOR  
PUBLIC INFORMATION

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**CHARLESTON MAYOR JOE RILEY TO HOST TWO EVENTS AS PART OF  
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL'S "PLAY BALL" INITIATIVE**

*The U.S. Conference of Mayors supporting MLB's youth initiative to help strengthen connection in  
communities across America City*

Charleston, S.C. –Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. and the City of Charleston Recreation Department will host Charleston youth in two activities as part of the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) support of Major League Baseball's "Play Ball" initiative, which focuses on the fun nature of baseball and encourages widespread participation in related activities. During the month of August 2015, or "Play Ball Month," mayors are implementing the initiative throughout cities with the goal of strengthening the connection between communities and the National Pastime.

City of Charleston Recreation Department is hosting two events. First, a "Meet the Riverdogs" event on August 6<sup>th</sup> and August 11<sup>th</sup> at the Riverdogs Stadium during which two summer camps will meet the Riverdogs players, tour the stadium, catch on the field and take batting practice in the batting cages from 10:30-11:30 a.m. On August 11<sup>th</sup> all City of Charleston youth sports participants will be able to attend the Riverdogs game free if they wear their uniforms.

Mayors across the country are hosting similar activities to engage citizens, families, and city departments to organize 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 strengthening bonds between families and communities with baseball through baseball-related activities.

Mayor Riley said, "Some of the fondest memories I have of growing up and of raising my own sons are watching the wonderful sport of baseball. Baseball brings together many different people of all backgrounds and ages and unites us as a community. I am happy that Charleston is participating in the Play Ball initiative to introduce our youth to this marvelous game."

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