



# CITY OF KINSTON

*Office of the Mayor*

207 E. King Street | Kinston, NC 28501

NJCAA  
1631 Mesa Avenue  
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

September 30, 2016

Dear NJCAA and Affiliated Parties,

Recently, I received confirmation about the unfortunate decision to punish the good, hospitable, and welcoming citizens of Kinston, North Carolina by removing the NJCAA Division III Baseball World Series you have committed to host in our great city. As Mayor of Kinston, in a request for reconsideration it is my hope to respectfully outline the incongruence of this decision and clearly outline the impact your actions will have on the kind-hearted people of Kinston— of which, should not be unfairly blamed and punished by your organization for the actions initiated by the City of Charlotte, which is 250 miles away.

The NJCAA's decision will impact a great number of people in and around the City of Kinston, including the kids on our baseball fields where Tyler, TX coached 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bases on their night off.

The NJCAA's decision impacts future potential NJCAA athletes— the star-eyed young boys who watch every second with anticipation, baseball glove on and ready to catch the next pop-fly.

The NJCAA's decision will have an estimated \$350,000 financial impact on our small business owners and entrepreneurs, including their hotels and restaurants, who are putting in the hours and heart to fulfill their American dream.

The NJCAA's decision will impact our families— who have been proudly attending the Kinston-hosted NJCAA's Division III Baseball World Series for the last two years.

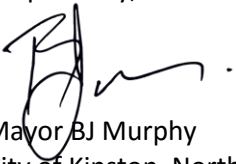
The NJCAA's decision impacts our active military men and women in eastern North Carolina — who so desperately crave a final outing with their families before being deployed. On their deployment, they will bravely fight to preserve both your freedom, and mine.

The NJCAA's decision impacts the many veterans in our eastern North Carolina communities who know just how much the freedom we enjoy as Americans truly cost.

And finally, the NJCAA's decision impacts the thousands upon thousands of people who turn to sports as an escape from the highly political and divisive season of history in which we live.

Politics has no place in sports. While the NJCAA may have the freedom to remove the Division III World Series from the City of Kinston—it is my hope that the grave collateral damage that this decision will unjustly create, may cause pause and reconsideration. The people of eastern North Carolina are ready, willing, and happy to show the NJCAA our warm southern hospitality in hosting this championship game for the third year in a row— and respectfully ask that you not punish the innocent people of Kinston for something they had no part in.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BJ Murphy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mayor BJ Murphy  
City of Kinston, North Carolina