

## **Statement from Anthony Barone, Field Manager and Community Relations, ROC Ventures**

On behalf of Mike Zimmerman, owner of ROC Ventures, and Dan Kuenzi, senior vice president of operations, thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this announcement about the future of Jammers baseball in Jamestown.

Today is a bitter/sweet day for ROC Ventures. Bitter because we have made a difficult business decision to cease operating the Jamestown Jammers. We have grown to love this community, admire the truly knowledgeable fan base, appreciate all that the City Government and Jammers Ambassadors have done to support the team, and absolutely enjoyed operating the team in the best stadium in the Perfect Game Collegiate Baseball League – Russell E. Diethrick, Jr. Park.

As many of you know, ROC Ventures and its other sports and entertainment interests are based in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, area. We have created a new professional baseball team called the Milwaukee Milkmen, which will begin play in the legendary American Association of Professional Baseball League during 2019. The team will play in a brand new 4,000-seat stadium we are constructing in Franklin, Wisconsin, as part of an overall \$130 million sports, entertainment and housing development called the Rock Sports Complex and Ballpark Commons.

This exciting new direction for our organization, as well as our commitment to other business interests in the Milwaukee area, has led us to the conclusion that operating a summer collegiate baseball team 600 miles away is just not practical for our company, or in the interest of the Greater Jamestown community.

What does that mean for baseball in Jamestown? At first, ROC Ventures was entertaining two legitimate offers from other organizations to buy the Jammers. However, both of those buyers would have moved the team out of Jamestown and closer to their respective locations. Baseball in Jamestown would be gone.

Instead, after considering a proposal by Mayor Sam Teresi, we have decided to donate the team and its assets to a local nonprofit group so that high-quality baseball has a chance to stay here in Jamestown for the continued enjoyment of future generations. We will work with the city and the local group on the timing and the transition to ensure the new owners have every chance to build a successful team and product here at Diethrick Park.

We at ROC Ventures have thoroughly enjoyed our time operating the Jammers in Jamestown. We appreciate the support from the fans, Ambassadors, and city government. While we regret having to leave, we believe that baseball in Jamestown will continue to grow and develop. We plan to do everything we can to help make that possible. Thank you, again, for allowing us to be a part of your wonderful community the past four years.