

CITY OF CALEDONIA, MINNESOTA

RESOLUTION 2021-11

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MIKEN SPORTS' EMPLOYEES AND OPERATIONS
IN CALEDONIA AND URGING RAWLINGS SPORTING GOODS TO REVERSE ITS
DECISION TO CLOSE MIKEN SPORTS**

WHEREAS, Miken Sports has maintained an office and manufacturing facility in the City of Caledonia since 1999; and

WHEREAS, Miken Sports has been one of the City's top employers for many years; and

WHEREAS, in mid-March 2020, at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Miken Sports employed 127 personnel in Caledonia; and

WHEREAS, as of July 22, 2021, Miken Sports employed approximately 78 personnel in Caledonia; and

WHEREAS, Miken Sports has been an excellent community partner for many years, providing donations and other support to youth sports teams and participating in various community events; and

WHEREAS, Miken Sports employees are valued members of the Caledonia community and have contributed significant amounts of time, money, and resources to improving the Caledonia community; and

WHEREAS, Caledonia is proud to be the home of Miken Sports and proud to manufacture the helmets used by Major League Baseball; and

WHEREAS, Miken Sports employees are talented, hard-working individuals; and

WHEREAS, despite the dedicated service of these employees to Miken Sports, the owner of Miken Sports, Rawlings Sporting Goods Co., Inc. ("Rawlings Sporting Goods"), has announced that it will be closing the Miken Sports office and manufacturing facility in Caledonia in 18-24 months; and

WHEREAS, Rawlings Sporting Goods will be sending most of these jobs to a factory in China; and

WHEREAS, Major League Baseball and the Seidler Equity Partners jointly own Rawlings Sporting Goods; and

WHEREAS, Major League Baseball had revenues of \$10.37 billion in 2019 prior to the pandemic and revenues of \$3.66 billion in 2020 during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Major League Baseball has received billions of dollars in public assistance in the United States; and

WHEREAS, 27 of the 30 Major League Baseball teams play in stadiums constructed with publicly financed loans or taxes; and

WHEREAS, Target Field in Minneapolis was constructed using \$350 million in public funds from a Hennepin County sales tax; and

WHEREAS, the four-plus million dollars per year that Rawlings Sporting Goods claims it will save from outsourcing the Miken Sports jobs to China is a small fraction of the funds it has received from U.S. taxpayers and is miniscule when compared with its \$10 billion in revenues per year; and

WHEREAS, Major League Baseball markets itself as “America’s Favorite Pastime,” including when it lobbied Congress to pass the Save America’s Pastime Act in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Major League Baseball and Seidler Equity Partners’ decision to outsource American jobs is incompatible with the idea of baseball being America’s favorite pastime; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the importance of manufacturing goods in the United States; and

WHEREAS, moving Miken Sports’ bat production to China punishes Caledonia’s workers for the benefit of a country that routinely steals intellectual property and violates human rights; and

WHEREAS, outsourcing Caledonia’s jobs to China shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic is even more offensive given that China was the source of the COVID-19 pandemic and refused to cooperate with international and governmental officials to prevent the spread and impact of the pandemic, thereby significantly exacerbating the economic and human toll of the virus; and

WHEREAS, Major League Baseball has demonstrated recently that it will make decisions based on political considerations—and not just monetary ones—when it moved the 2021 All-Star game from Atlanta to Denver to protest what it claimed was Georgia legislation suppressing voting rights; and

WHEREAS, China has been actively suppressing pro-democracy demonstrators in Hong Kong since 2020 and denies all Chinese the opportunity to participate in free and fair elections; and

WHEREAS, moving Caledonia’s jobs to China would be inconsistent with Major League Baseball’s purported support for democracy and voting rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CALEDONIA CITY COUNCIL:

1. The City of Caledonia supports the talented, hard-working employees of Miken Sports and appreciates the contributions Miken Sports and its employees have made to the City for more than 20 years.

2. The City of Caledonia opposes any efforts to outsource Caledonia's jobs to China, especially when Major League Baseball is supposed to be America's favorite pastime and has benefited significantly from public assistance from American taxpayers.

3. The City of Caledonia further opposes any efforts to outsource Caledonia's jobs to China because of China's record of stealing intellectual property, violating human rights, and exacerbating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. The City of Caledonia urges Major League Baseball and the Seidler Equity Partners to reverse their decision to close Miken Sports in 18-24 months.

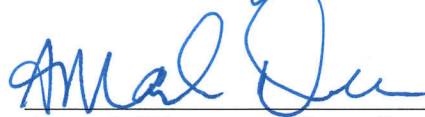
5. The City of Caledonia further urges Major League Baseball to stand by its commitment to protecting democracy and voting rights by not exporting American jobs to China.

ADOPTED by the Caledonia City Council this 9th day of August, 2021.


DeWayne "Tank" Schroeder, Mayor


David Fitzpatrick, Councilmember


Robert "Bob" Klug, Councilmember


Amanda Ninneman, Councilmember


Brad Rykhus, Councilmember

ATTEST:


Adam G. Swann, Clerk/Administrator

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF HOUSTON)
CITY OF CALEDONIA)

I, Adam Swann, city clerk and administrator of the City of Caledonia, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct transcript of the resolution that was adopted at a meeting held on the 9th day of August, 2021, the original of which is on file in this office. I further certify that 5 members voted in favor of this resolution and that 5 members were present and voting.

Signed Adam Swann

Date August 10, 2021