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COMMISSIONER DONATES SALARY TO YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM

(Lawrenceville, Ga., Jan. 28, 2004) – For the past two years, District 4 Commissioner Kevin Kenerly has donated more than 100 percent of his commissioner’s salary on behalf of the Lawrenceville Youth Athletic Association. These contributions are in keeping with a three-year, \$38,000 pledge Kenerly made to the association for a football press box at Rhodes Jordan Park. Kenerly presented a check to Gwinnett County for \$12,737 on Tuesday.

The youth athletic association originally planned to split the cost of the \$76,425 press box with Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation through the Park Partnership program. Groups apply to the program for matching funds for projects such as new fields, lights and bleachers. Applicants must pay at least half of the cost of the project. However, Kenerly, whose district includes Lawrenceville, offered to pay the association’s 50 percent share personally.

Kenerly has been an active volunteer in youth sports for many years. He coached in the Gwinnett Football League for 15 years and served on the Lilburn Football Board for five years.

“As a coach and commissioner, I have seen how youth sports benefit the children in our community,” Kenerly said. “This is a way to show my appreciation for the youth sports programs and the volunteers who donate their time and energy to make sports possible for thousands of kids in our county each year.”

Last year, approximately 44,000 children and 11,000 volunteers participated in sports activities through Gwinnett’s 20 youth athletic associations, which offer baseball, basketball, cheerleading, football, roller hockey, soccer, and softball. Volunteers handle all day-to-day association operations, including selecting teams, coaching, raising money, and scheduling practices and games.

Other recent upgrades to the Rhodes Jordan Park football field include a new concession stand and restrooms funded by the 2001 SPLOST program.

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