



District of Columbia Government
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
Box 75115
Washington, DC 20013



January 11, 2019

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
2136 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mayor Muriel Bowser
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Endorsement of Councilmember Charles Allen's opposition to a new NFL stadium on the current RFK site

Dear Representative Norton and Mayor Bowser:

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting¹ on January 13, 2019, our Commission voted 6-0-1 (with 5 Commissioners required for a quorum) to endorse CM Charles Allen's position (opposition) with respect to a new NFL stadium on the current RFK Stadium site. To reiterate CM Allen's position:

As a DC resident, I am against a deal that gives away a single square foot of land or a single District tax dollar to build a new stadium for billionaire NFL owner Dan Snyder.

- I believe the 190 acres alongside the Anacostia River could be so much more than oceans of asphalt for surface parking and a 60,000-seat stadium.*
- On average, most NFL stadiums only hold 10 to 20 events annually outside of eight NFL home games, meaning the stadium sits empty more than 300 days a year. An enormous space that sits empty doesn't spur economic growth and doesn't help the surrounding community, as study after study has demonstrated.*
- Make no mistake - people drive to NFL games and they're going to park somewhere, regardless of how much is available. At San Francisco's new stadium, they had to rent out all of the parking lots at a nearby amusement park. Where do you think people will park around RFK if there isn't enough parking for fans?*
- Nationwide, since 1997 we've seen the NFL pit communities against each other while collecting more than \$6.7 billion dollars from taxpayers to build stadiums for privately-owned teams. Overall, local taxpayers end up footing around half the bill for a new NFL stadium.*

¹ ANC 6A meetings are advertised electronically on the anc6a-announce@yahoogroups.com, anc6a@yahoogroups.com, and newhilleast@yahoogroups.com, at www.anc6a.org, and through print advertisements in the Hill Rag.



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- *The costs of these projects are always higher than estimated. The five most recent newly-constructed NFL stadiums have surpassed more than \$1 billion dollars each!*
- *As a DC resident, I don't want to see DC hoodwinked into paying for a billionaire's stadium. The District needs our tax dollars to create new housing at all levels, support local DC entrepreneurs who run small and local business, take urgent steps forward to shift to a 100% clean energy environment, build larger and modern schools for our growing city, fund our Metro system, and in general spend money to make life better and easier for DC residents.*
- *Sitting on the banks of the historic Anacostia River, a new stadium and all of the traffic and trash that would come along, would set the Anacostia River's improvement back. RFK has never had to meet standards set by the National Environmental Policy Act, and I am concerned any deal worked out under the outgoing Congress would try to extend the exemption to holding the site accountable to environmental standards.*

Dedicating millions of dollars to bring an NFL stadium to the District is a bad deal and a poor use of an incredible opportunity.

Thank you for giving consideration to our ANC's feedback on this issue which is essential to the quality of life in our community and good stewardship of the District's finances. Should you wish to discuss this letter with the Commission, please feel free to reach out to me at AmberANC6A@gmail.com.

On behalf of the Commission,

Amber Gove
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

cc: Councilmember Ward 6, Charles Allen, callen@dccouncil.us
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