

A Football Stadium Would Be Bad for DC

Regardless of your enthusiasm for football, there are many reasons to be concerned about building a new stadium in DC. The RFK site is a unique opportunity to develop innovatively in a way that meets community needs and promotes economic, racial, and environmental justice – but not if a football stadium is built there. With a public transit system needing support and a downtown that needs to be reimaged, a stadium would be the wrong focus for DC's economic development. Any stadium deal would subsidize a multi-billion corporation at the cost of affordable housing, education, and environmental initiatives. It would deny the opportunity to build housing and other amenities badly needed by DC residents.

Mayor Bowser started her third term calling for 30,000 new Black homeowners and raising the median Black family income by \$25,000, important priorities that she should stick to. A stadium to benefit professional football would take our eye off the ball of creating real economic opportunities and advancing equity.

- **A stadium is the wrong kind of economic development:** With Metro asking for hundreds of millions of dollars from the region and a downtown that is hemorrhaging from low occupancy, a football stadium is the wrong place to focus, especially given the vast research showing stadiums don't enhance local economies.
- **All stadiums take money away from other priorities.** Giving DC land to a billionaire is a lost opportunity to use public land for deeply affordable housing. The hundreds of millions that would be needed to prepare the RFK site for football could support public housing repairs, better computer technology for DC students, a transition to electric appliances and vehicles, and much more. That's true even if the team pays 100% of construction costs, which seems doubtful.
- **There is a better vision for the RFK site:** The large amount of land would be a perfect place to build an equitable community from scratch: Environmentally sound social housing that meets a range of incomes, with tenants involved in key decisions, and with the key amenities a healthy neighborhood needs, like schools, parks, grocery stores and health care.
- **The RFK area is a neighborhood.** Residents want housing and amenities, not a stadium and enormous parking lots.
- **Billionaire owners shouldn't get public funding to increase their profits.** The Commanders owner paid \$6 billion for the team. He also can pay 100% of the costs of a stadium, including paying for the land and all development costs.
- **DC has other stadiums to worry about:** The city is legally obligated to maintain Nationals Park, and the owner of Capital One Arena in downtown DC, is eager to have city support for needed upgrades.