Ahmed Assalaam
116 P Street, S.W. #1
Washington, D.C. 20024
Thursday, June 2, 2005

District of Columbia Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20002

RE: WRITTEN TESTIMONY
CASE NO. Z.C. 05-08

There is a real human tragedy that has been lurking within the District of Columbia Government over the past decade. That tragedy is us, the rightful subjects of legislation who are the true governing body of this Corporate Municipality. In establishing ourselves as a government we made sure that it was embodied in the Home Rule Charter that the people are the government, the purpose of the government is to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the people, and that no-one but the people themselves could take these rights, privileges, and immunities away! Yet every attempt the people have made to raise their voices in objection seem only to fall on deaf ears, and my heart is saddened to think that such a spirit of tyranny and oppression over the common citizen would rise to such drastic levels for the greater benefit and pleasure of a few wealthy elitist. I ask you tonight, what is the real cost, not just financially (which is absolutely extreme) or artistically for its aesthetics, but in human lives?! How much are we willingly to continue to pay while there is such suffering and so much that we really need to be doing for our youth today and future generations? The "ole ball game" really means that except for the chosen few we are not intended to be here to receive social or economic gain from the stadium anyway! Please let me remind you that the Single Member District where I live and represent, as well as the one adjacent to me are the only areas left in ANC 6D (which includes SE/SW) where there is a large population of children and families. If all of you keep going forward as others have done, you will have attributed to wiping us out, and we will be no more. That is why I am here tonight to say, there is no true benefit for the people in this stadium proposal, there is only woe and doom! This not right, nor is it legal. If it were [redacted] then there would be no need to create legislation and amend zoning to make it lawful. Still, at every turn there is an attempt to factor out the impact upon the human population (such as noise, traffic, displacement, rising cost, etc.,) by exclusively factoring in the environmental impact. This fiasco doesn't even factor in national security let alone securing the citizens residing within and along it's perimeters. When did bricks, mortar, or idle sport and play become more significant than the health, safety, and welfare of the people? Who cares? A man or woman with a heart and true sense that their purpose as public officials is to serve for the public benefit. I am sure that most of you have seen or attended numerous hearings on this issue and so you have personally witnessed the public outcry of concerns through the overwhelming objections of the people against this stadium proposal's cost and location. Therefore, I am asking tonight that each of you vote to deny Zoning Commission Case Number 05-08, and hopefully Almighty God will Bless this city and nation for finally doing what is right by His people. If not, then what guarantee can you give us the people, that when this development is complete we will still be here?

Ahmed Assalaam

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.05-08
EXHIBIT NO.13