110 P St SW
Washington, DC 20024
June 2, 2005

DC Zoning Commission
441 4th St NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Commissioners,

First, I would like to thank you for all that you do to maintain the integrity of the national character of our city

Secondly, with regard to the Office of Planning's proposed amendment to the South Capitol Gateway Overlay District:

Last summer, the executive branch of the DC government and Major League Baseball dictated that their agreement to bring a ball team to DC, which included building MLB a new stadium, would be written into law That law was passed in late December and since then, the city's Chief Financial Officer, the District Council and a number of departments and agencies of the city government have been rushing to implement it. In doing their part, the Office of Planning is requesting that this Commission change a zoning district that sets out how land can be used in a certain area of the city so that building a ballpark will be a permitted use

In essence, it is asking you to go along with implementing a law that was vigorously opposed by people all across this city and for very good reason: it violates both the spirit and practice of Home Rule, which took 183 years to come into existence and is the closest that American citizens residing in the District of Columbia have ever come to practicing self-government and democracy in the nation that was founded on that very principle But it is not Home Rule to allow an entity that is not even Congress to determine what laws are written by our legislative body It is not Home Rule to allow an entity that does not even pay taxes into our treasury to determine how that treasury will be used. It is not Home Rule for any entity outside of Congress, and only when necessary, to determine how the land in this city will be used

Since the Nationals' first game in mid-April, nine different groups have formed with an interest in buying this ball team, and all that has happened without building a new stadium I am confident that the group that becomes the new owners and has a stake in the well-being of the city over all, will not be so willing to snub the national monument that RFK Stadium is. Nor will they be so willing to trample on Home Rule, which is after all an Act of Congress, by diverting the attention of this city's government from a host of vital needs to one that is not needed.

Any business in America that can only be successful by misusing the land and other resources of this city has far, far more serious problems than this proposed amendment would correct and I call on you to deny your approval of it.

Sincerely,

Sarah Livingston

Sarah Livingston

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.05-08
EXHIBIT NO.16