



**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N W
WASHINGTON, DC 20004**

COUNCILMEMBER MARION BARRY

Former Mayor
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Committee Member
Chair, Special Committee on Vocational
Education and Jobs for District Residents
Education, Libraries and Recreation
Finance and Revenue
Human Services
Public Works and the Environment

WMATA Board of Directors

July 6, 2006

Ms Carol J Mitten
Chairman
District of Columbia Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, N.W
Suite 210 South
Washington, D C 20001

REC-110
DC OFFICE OF ZONING
JUL 11 AM 10:49

Dear Ms. Mitten

I am writing to strongly urge the members of the Zoning Commission to act in the financial and political interest of this city by supporting the zoning relief requested by Western Development through its principal Herb Miller. The current financing challenge we face as a city is that the total anticipated cost for parking is in excess of \$74,000,000 and the only available funding is limited to \$21,000,000. We have few options unless we go into partnership with a private developer.

I am however unalterably opposed any plans, which would provide for the construction of two unsightly exposed parking garages in front of our stadium. Despite a disadvantageous lease agreement with Major League Baseball, our publicly financed stadium should still command the prerogatives of ownership. The overall look and feel of the site is essential to current and future development and revenue for the city. Additionally, the construction of surface only parking lots would deprive the city of millions in anticipated revenue due to the absence of any residential or retail development potential. Completely underground lots while an appealing option, are at this point unrealistic and excessively expensive.

I am of the belief that the city should be required to develop a financing plan through the private sector, to close the gap in financing prior to the start of construction and subject to the approval of the Council. There exist no other feasible options at this late hour to meet our objectives while complying with the contractual parking commitments to Major League Baseball.

**ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia**

CASE NO. 06-22 Htr.
EXHIBIT NO. 59
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
07-05-NO-06-22
EXHIBIT NO.59

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This is a crucial decision in the history of land use in our city and we cannot afford to drop the ball. Failure to approve the Westerr Development proposal will deprive our city of much needed tax revenue and badly needed resources for a community benefits fund and therefore, for the sake of all D C residents, I urge you to support it

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marion Barry', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Marion Barry

Cc: Commissioner Anthony Hood
Commissioner Gregory N Jefferies
Commissioner Kevin Hildebrand
Commissioner John Parsons