



News...

FROM COUNCIL MEMBER
TONY AVELLA



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March 31, 2006

Press Release

For further information

please call: Tony Avella 718-747-2137 or 917-723-3289

Avella Comments on Yankee Stadium Proposal

Attached is copy of a letter Council Member Tony Avella, Chair of Zoning and Franchises, has sent to Mayor Bloomberg expressing his current opposition to the proposed Yankee Stadium project.

TONY AVELLA
COUNCIL MEMBER, 19TH DISTRICT
QUEENS

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THE COUNCIL
OF
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LAND USE
VETERANS

March 31, 2006

Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

I had originally intended to vote in favor of the Yankee Stadium proposal. I am, however, increasingly disturbed by various aspects of the overall plan.

Stadium opponents have quite correctly highlighted the elimination of crucial neighborhood parkland and the lack of suitable replacements. Environmental groups and transportation advocates have indicated that the proposal must include the development of a Yankee Stadium Metro-North Station.

In addition, I understand from various media reports that the Yankee organization has negotiated a "community benefits" agreement, which will include a monetary fund to be used solely at the discretion of Bronx elected officials. Such agreements, I believe, should never be considered as part of the formal City Council land use decision making process.

While a case might be made in this instance for the appropriateness of the benefit agreement, it is inherently bad public policy to allow private individuals, however, well intentioned, to receive and disburse the monies. Any fund designed to mitigate potential negative impacts that the Stadium might inadvertently cause should be administered by an appropriate City agency. This affords oversight and accountability. To do otherwise undermines the review process and creates the appearance of impropriety.

Under the circumstances, unless changes are made to the proposal regarding these issues as well as others that have been raised, including the project's financing, I will vote against this application. I hope that you will carefully consider my comments.

If done properly, the new Yankee Stadium can be a boon to its immediate Bronx neighbors and the entire city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Avella".

Tony Avella
Council Member
District 19—Northeast Queens
Chair-Zoning and Franchises