



GEORGE E. SPARGO
ASSISTANT TO CHAIRMAN

HARRY TAYLOR
DIRECTOR

CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF COMMITTEE ON SLUM CLEARANCE
RANDALL'S ISLAND
NEW YORK 35, N. Y.
TELEPHONE TRAFALGAR 6-9700

MEMBERS

ROBERT MOSES, CHAIRMAN
CONSTRUCTION Co-ORDINATOR
JOHN J. BENNETT
CHAIRMAN, PLANNING COMMISSION
PHILIP J. CRUISE
CHAIRMAN, HOUSING AUTHORITY
LAZARUS JOSEPH
COMPTROLLER
DENIS M. HURLEY
CORPORATION COUNSEL
ROBERT G. McCULLOUGH
CHIEF ENGINEER, BOARD OF ESTIMATE

June 22, 1953

Mr. Walter F. O'Malley, President
Brooklyn National League Baseball Club
215 Montague Street
Brooklyn 2, N. Y.

Dear Walter:

I have your letter of June 18th addressed to me as Chairman of the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority, and also the copy of your letter to our mutual friend George McLaughlin.

These letters deal with a slum clearance project under Title One of the Federal Housing Act and not with any activity of the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority because I assume you do not propose that Triborough go into the baseball business.

Various reliable people had already told me of your recent efforts to substitute a new Brooklyn ball field for the Title One slum clearance project at Fort Greene on which agreement was reached some time ago involving all the responsible federal and local officials. The law and facts on this matter have been repeatedly stated. This project has been delayed for a short time awaiting the decision of the Court of Appeals in a basic case involving broad constitutional questions and the interpretation of Title One of the federal law.

We do not believe that the law would permit the use of the Fort Greene Title One area to establish a new ball field in any case. It is true that the New York Coliseum is a part of slum clearance at Columbus Circle under Title One but this project was specifically authorized and declared to be a public purpose by State law adopted under the Home Rule section of the Constitution. Moreover the federal provisions requiring predominantly residential uses have been complied with.

Let me add that there are other reasons aside from those of law and sound policy why your plan is not one which justifies the exercise of the power of eminent domain not to speak of the use

Mr. Walter F. O'Malley

-2-

June 22, 1953

of public funds to reduce the cost of land. Our Slum Clearance Committee cannot be used to encourage speculation in baseball enterprises. You are, of course, the best judge as to whether in fact a new Dodger Stadium would be anything but a white elephant, and whether the extension of your present property with additional surface and other parking facilities would not meet every problem you mention except perhaps television competition.

I am sorry to have to write this letter but I know you want it straight from the shoulder.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'R. Moses', written in a cursive style.

Chairman