

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



GEORGE E. SPARGO  
ASSISTANT TO CHAIRMAN  
HARRY TAYLOR  
DIRECTOR

*(S)  
Dodge  
Stadium*

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

November 2, 1953

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

Dear Walter:

I have your letter of October 28th with further reference to the proposed new Dodge Stadium.

Let me see if I can simplify this matter. What you now propose is that the City or a public agency acquire the land for this stadium and for a large parking garage accommodating two thousand cars. (In one place in your letter you refer to two hundred cars and in another place to two thousand. I assume you mean two thousand.) The implication in your letter is that either the City or the public agency would then build the necessary structures on this land and rent the whole area to you on a basis which would amortize the public investment and perhaps including some additional revenue to the City or public agency.

You ask whether such a combination of garage and stadium is practical and where it should be located. Let me take up the questions you raise in order:

First, neither the City nor any existing public agency has any power or right to acquire by eminent domain property for the purposes you outline. It is true that there is existing law which permits the acquisition of property for public garage purposes, but in this instance it is obvious that the garage is financially incidental to the stadium and that the real purpose is to build a new Dodge Stadium. It may be that you could get special legislation establishing a stadium of this kind as a public purpose. I should have some doubts about this, but others are better judges than I.

Mr. Walter F. O'Malley

-2-

November 2, 1953

Second, as to the feasibility of a combination of stadium and garage for two thousand cars, the stadium being built upon the lines recommended by Mr. Praeger, I would personally have the gravest doubt about the practicability of this plan because a reasonable location for the stadium, that is a location on land which is either vacant or relatively inexpensive, would not lend itself to a garage of the kind you mention. For example, the run-down, private charitable institution on Atlantic Avenue looks like a piece of land you could acquire for the Stadium at a reasonable cost, but it certainly would not be a place for a two-thousand car garage because the cars wouldn't be there except when games were played. There is an indication in your letter that you still have in mind the possibility of locating a stadium and garage within a Title I Slum Clearance Project at a central location where the garage would carry the stadium. As previously indicated to you, I can see no way in which this can be done.

Third, as to acquisition of land for the stadium with or without the garage you refer to, it seems to me you should shop around with the idea of purchasing land at reasonable cost such as the institutional property on Atlantic Avenue. If you succeed in buying property of this kind or, in fact any other property you can purchase, I am quite sure that you would get every possible cooperation from public officials from the Borough President on down. This cooperation could be extended in the form of street widenings and other nearby needed public improvements such as school, park, and similar facilities, all being part of a general neighborhood improvement approved by the City Planning Commission. I would earnestly suggest that you and the others interested proceed along these lines which seem to offer the best prospect of success.

Cordially,



Chairman