Statement to Council Regarding an Aberdeen-Longwood Stadium Location

City Council chose the West Harbour as our preferred Pan Am stadium location because it had the best prospects for achieving the city's goals:

- Support for public transit
- Residential intensification of our downtown
- Brownfield remediation
- Economic spin-offs for established businesses
- Links to existing public assets, i.e. the harbour and downtown
- Protecting the environment

These goals, in turn, dovetail with the Future Fund's objectives:

- Grow the city's economic base
- Enhance the social fabric
- Build community

Council reaffirmed its choice for the West Harbour in what we all thought would be the final vote on this issue on August 14.

Since then, Pan Am HostCo has signaled that it may not approve a stadium location without the Ticats as a committed anchor tenant.

Given that Council is now considering an alternate location in the Aberdeen-Longwood area and the Ticats have also expressed interest in this site, I wish to reiterate:

1. Council's primary task is to promote the City's objectives and ensure the success of the city, not to ensure the success of the Ticats. Any new deal that emerges must continue to serve the city's objectives.

2. Council's objective is not to achieve a stadium at any cost. The stadium, after all, is not an end in itself but merely a means of achieving our goals.

3. McMaster Innovation Park (MIP) is an ambitious, long-term investment in growing the city's economic base by incubating high tech business startups. The stadium and its associated infrastructure must not interfere with the MIP strategy by consuming employment lands.

Sincerely,
Ryan McGreal
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