ECLEG MAR16'12 AM11:55

Patrick H. Freeman
Sports Director at
1080 AM WUFO radio

March 14, 2012

Robert Graber
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

To the Honorable Erie County Legislature:

This year western New York is once again faced with the end of our beloved Buffalo Bills lease to play its games in forty year old Ralph Wilson stadium. The first lease the Bills had with this facility was 25 years but with Ralph Wilson becoming more disenchanted with the so called economy of western New York he stated he wanted a shorter lease with a buy out clause which would enable him to move this franchise if the Bills organization met certain financial requirements. So then County Executive Gorski negotiated a 15 year lease with Buffalo Bills which expires in 2013.

The Buffalo Bills have stated they are eager to negotiate a new lease with the condition that Erie County, and all related government interest agree to certain stadium improvements which will come from a commissioned study by an architectural firm. In the meantime new County executive Mark Polancarz has ordered a study of the concrete at the stadium, and what needs to be done to make sure it's safe for current use. Well I've decided to do my own study because from what I see this whole issue is the result of forty years of bad decisions that have benefited certain parties but hurt the region of western New York.

Before I go any further I must caution you that this article is going to anger those that are committed to keeping this region behind the rest of the country. They have a powerful misinformation network to make you think that this area is a struggling part of the

www.wufoam.com
89 LaSalle Avenue • Buffalo, NY 14214-1495 • TEL: (716) 834-1080 • FAX: (716) 837-1438

country. This is because they make their living on creating institutions that create a dysfunctional under class that depends on a part of the population that lend credibility to public programs that don't create a economic impact that would bring the Buffalo/Niagara region back to world prominence. Yes these are the same people that have watched greatest fresh water area of the world struggle to find its way back, and watch Niagara Falls, Ontario build itself up while Niagara Falls, New York is dwarfed in comparison. You have now been warned and its time for the citizens to tell our elected leaders this is what we want to happen, and accept no less.

This is why these current negotiations with the Buffalo Bills must be the beginning of changing the strategic decisions of western New York, and its elected leadership. Many believe already that whatever renovations are cited need to be funded by the state of New York because they receive 20 Million dollars annually from the Buffalo Bills playing in western New York.
Well let's begin looking at other regions who were confronted with ageing stadiums that needed to be brought up to date in the last ten years. All of these cities and regions renovated their current facilities rather than build a new stadium. Now keep in mind many of the required updates are behind the scenes, and involve bringing these facilities up to date with the current requirements of an up to date NFL production.

1. Chicago , Illinois - $365 Million in renovation cost to Soldier Field
2. Kansas City, Missouri- $375 Million in renovation to Arrowhead Stadium
3. New Orleans Louisiana- $336 million in renovation to the Superdome. Part of the cost was paid for by FEMA $153 million from the Katrina disaster
4. Green Bay Wisconsin- $295 Million to Lambieu Field.

In Closing Part 1 of this article I think you need to evaluate this statement by Buffalo Bills owner Ralph Wilson in that he said we just want a good football stadium to play in. That statement must be analyzed by our elected leadership in coming to a responsible decision. There are between 7 to 9 professional football games played in western New York per year. These games occur between August and December of each year. That's about 150 days of the year leaving Ralph Wilson stadium doing nothing out in the middle of nowhere 215 days a year. We continue this discussion next week on why I believe that the answer is to build a new stadium in downtown Buffalo, and will discuss where and how.

Sincerely,

Patrick H. Freeman

Sports Director 1080AM WUFO Radio

www.wufoam.com
89 LaSalle Avenue • Buffalo, NY 14214-1495 • TEL: (716) 834-1080 • FAX: (716) 837-1438