



Common Council
CITY OF BUFFALO
OFFICE OF MAJORITY LEADER

GOLEB 4/29/2014 10:31

DEMONE A. SMITH
MAJORITY LEADER
MASTEN DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBER
65 NIAGARA SQUARE, ROOM 1414
BUFFALO, NY 14202-3318
PHONE: 851-5145 • FAX: 851-5443
E-mail: dsmith@city-buffalo.com
Website: <http://www.city-buffalo.com>

CHAIRMAN
BUDGET
EDUCATION
MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

COMMITTEES
CIVIL SERVICE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
FINANCE
RULES

SPECIAL COMMITTEES
WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT

MEMBER
JOINT SCHOOLS CONSTRUCTION BOARD

LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANTS
FRANK GARLAND
TIANNA MARKS

May 19, 2014

Chairman John Mills
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: Request for a joint legislative session

Dear Chairman,

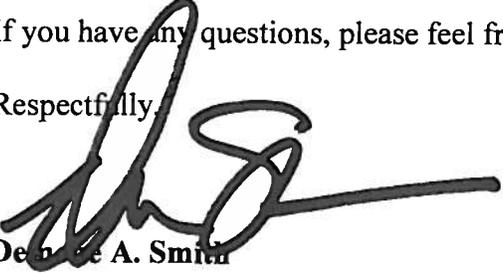
Our community faces an exciting and unique opportunity to secure economic development and prosperity: building a new NFL approved facility to ensure that professional football stays a part of Western New York.

The Common Council has recently expressed its sentiment in this matter by championing the benefits associated with a new entertainment complex in numerous resolutions and letters to the NFL. I have enclosed copies of some of those resolutions with this letter.

However, this effort will take more than just city support. My fellow Council Members and I believe that the interests of the people of our county and city will be best served by our cooperation and agreement wherever possible on this matter. Therefore, on behalf of the Common Council, I am requesting the scheduling of an historic joint session of the Legislature's Economic Development Committee and the City's Community Development Committee to consider joint deliberation, and more importantly, joint action.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,



Demone A. Smith
Majority Leader
Masten District Council Member

Cc: Council President Darius G. Pridgen,
Council Member Joseph Golombek, Jr., Community Development Chairmain

DAS me

Comm. 11M-5
Page 1 of 4

Resolution

Sponsors: Councilmembers Smith, Fontana, Russell, Golombek, Pridgen, Scanlon, Franczyk, Rivera, LoCurto
Subject: Support for GBSEC to obtain a nine to twelve month land option on the Buffalo Outer Harbor
Date: April 30, 2013

Whereas: The Greater Buffalo Sports and Entertainment Complex, LLC (GBSEC) has filed a proposal for the development of a landmark Sports, Entertainment, Conference and Museum Complex on the Buffalo Outer Harbor; and

Whereas: GBSEC has proposed development plans to the Buffalo Common Council, the Mayor of the City of Buffalo and the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, and the Erie County Legislator in the recent past; and

Whereas: It should be noted that GBSEC has retained the pre-eminent sports and entertainment complex design and development firm, HKS, Inc. of Dallas, TX, which has established a working relationship with the National Football League through the building of successful and Super Bowl grade facilities for other franchises; and

Whereas: The GBSEC proposal intends to create a publicly accessible green and environmentally advanced waterfront environment. In addition, the construction of a downtown conference center and hotel along with a proposed partnership with the Strong Museum of Rochester to create the country's first Museum of Sport and Competition would create tourism destination opportunities in the outer harbor region year round; and

Whereas: These developed plans solidify the City's desire to keep the Buffalo Bills local with the expectation that upon the expiration of the lease with Ralph Wilson Stadium, the Buffalo Bills be in search of a new stadium; and

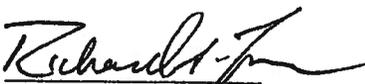
Whereas: The construction of the stadium would create significant job opportunities, including as estimated 8,000 construction jobs for the projected seven year development process and the development of GBSEC's private partnership will save tax payers of Erie County a considerable amount of money and greatly alleviate the current tax burden.

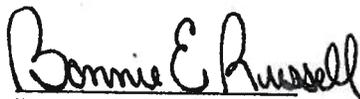
Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved:

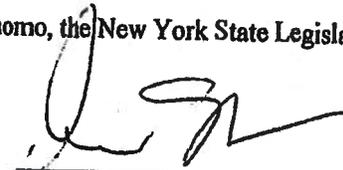
That the Common Council of the City of Buffalo calls on Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, the New York State Legislature, and the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority to grant the Greater Buffalo Sports and Entertainment Complex, LLC a nine to twelve month land option on the Buffalo Outer Harbor for exploration and development of the proposed downtown stadium; and

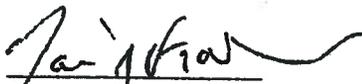
Be It Further Resolved:

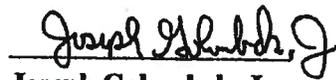
That certified copies of this resolution be conveyed to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, the New York State Legislature, the NFTA, and all others deemed necessary and appropriate.

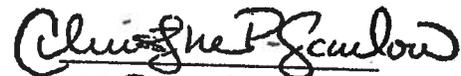

Richard Fontana
Common Council President
Lovejoy District Council Member


Bonnie E. Russell
President Pro Tempore
University District Council Member

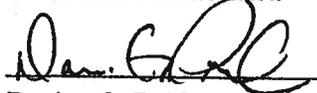

Demone A. Smith
Majority Leader
Masten District Council Member

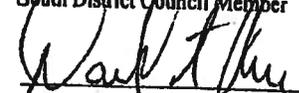

David A. Franczyk
Fillmore District Council Member


Joseph Golombek, Jr.
North District Council Member


Christopher P. Scanlon
South District Council Member


Michael LoCurto
Delaware District Council Member


Darius G. Pridgen
Ellicott District Council Member


David A. Rivera
Niagara District Council Member

NOV 01 2011

RESOLUTION



By: Mr. Smith

Re: Build New Stadium in Buffalo for the Bills

- Whereas: The NFL has seen a boom in the construction of new football stadiums, with new facilities recently opening in New Jersey for the Jets and Giants, Dallas, Indianapolis and Arizona. New stadiums are being planned or talked about in Minnesota and Los Angeles, even though LA does not have an NFL team; and
- Whereas: The City of Buffalo has seen an upswing in downtown development recently, including the Canal Harbor, the Buffalo/Niagara Medical Campus, the conversion of the Avant, the redevelopment of the former Lafayette Hotel and Statler and the conversion of numerous long-vacant buildings into lofts and condos; and
- Whereas: The Buffalo Bills lease with Erie County is set to expire after the 2012 season and Ralph Wilson Stadium will need extensive improvements to keep the facility viable and competitive and help to ensure that the Bills have a long-term future in Western New York; and
- Whereas: The stadium was built in 1973 and was last renovated in 1997, when approximately \$63 million in improvements were made to the facility; and
- Whereas: The Buffalo Bills have recently announced the hiring of the architectural firm Populous to begin a thorough study of improvements needed at the stadium to bring it up to today's standards; and
- Whereas: Early estimates of upgrades are expected to be \$60-\$100 million or more. The team has publicly stated that they would be willing to sign a restrictive lease tying the Bills to Western New York if a satisfactory agreement can be reached with New York State and Erie County; and
- Whereas: The vast majority of funding for the stadium improvements and upgrades is expected to come from New York State. The team has made serious attempts to find additional revenue streams by regionalizing into the Rochester, Syracuse and Southern Ontario markets; and
- Whereas: A new stadium in downtown Buffalo, with a long-term lease may be the best solution to keeping the team in Western New York for many years to come and would be a major piece in the continuing economic revival of downtown and the City of Buffalo;

Now, Therefore be it Resolved:

That the Common Council of the City of Buffalo supports keeping the Buffalo Bills in Western New York; and

89 47A
11M-5
Page 3 of 4

Be it Further Resolved:

That the option of building a new stadium in downtown Buffalo be explored and considered before any decision on improvements to the current stadium are finalized; and

Be it Finally Resolved:

That the City Clerk send certified copies of this resolution to the Buffalo Bills, New York State Governor Cuomo, New York State Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, the New York State Empire State Development Corporation, the Western New York delegation, the Erie County Executive and NFL Commissioner Goodell for their comments.



Demone A. Smith