



Luke A. Bronin
Mayor

August 22, 2017

Michael Freimuth
Executive Director
Capital Region Development Authority
100 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 100
Hartford, CT 06103

Re: Dillon Stadium Draft Proposal

Dear Mike:

Thank you for your letter of August 9, 2017 offering to work with the City of Hartford to develop a plan to repair and upgrade Dillon Stadium and identify potential revenue-generating users of the facility.

As you note, a number of potential professional sports users have expressed interest in the facility. That being the case, it certainly makes sense to explore whether we could harness this interest to renovate Dillon Stadium for public as well as professional use, and in the process potentially create a future revenue stream for the improvement and upkeep of Colt Park.

CRDA is, of course, ideally situated to assist us in this effort and we appreciate your offer. A rejuvenated Dillon Stadium would be an exciting companion to the new Coltsville National Historical Park and a welcome addition—and further catalyst—to the ongoing renaissance of the entire Coltsville area.

I have asked Sean Fitzpatrick and our Development Services team to work with you and other stakeholders in developing a plan of action for Dillon along the lines suggested, and we look forward to working with CRDA in this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luke A. Bronin".

Luke A. Bronin
Mayor

cc: Sean M. Fitzpatrick

550 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Telephone (860) 757-9500
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Honorable Luke Bronin
Mayor
City of Hartford
City Hall Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103

August 9, 2017

RE: Dillon Stadium
Draft Proposal

Dear Mayor Bronin:


Reportedly there are several potential users interested in Dillon Stadium. Coupled with secondary education sports programs and linked to the long-term renewal of Colt Park, the currently deteriorating stadium could rather become an anchor for community renewal. However, we appreciate that a long list of priorities and issues confronts the City and the future of Dillon Stadium, while important, is necessarily in a secondary slot.

As you are aware, one of the primary roles CRDA plays is to manage large sporting and entertainment venues. While Dillon Stadium immediately abuts the CRDA southern district line, the facility is eligible for our attention by virtue of state statutory language instructing CRDA to promote sports and entertainment statewide and to undertake 'Capital City Projects' anywhere in the city. Dillon/Colt Park is also eligible as a neighborhood project as such initiatives have been recently incorporated into CRDA's mission.

To this extent, CRDA is offering a proposal, subject to your refinements, to develop a plan to repair/upgrade and re-use Dillon. CRDA would seek to define and then assess any potential users for the stadium. Assuming there is solid interest, we would then prepare a capital plan for the facility to meet the new opportunities and those desired by the community. Co-terminus with this effort would be an operational/management plan that could capitalize on existing economies in staff, equipment and knowledge already existing within the current CRDA venue operations. Ideally, should there be net revenues, the idea would be to dedicate them back to improvements and programs at Colt Park. In this way, such effort would also complement the ongoing National Park and the adjoining redevelopment of the Colt Armory complex.

This proposal will need CRDA Board approval to proceed and I would assume that there are a variety of municipal check points ahead that I leave to the city to define and advise. Nonetheless, if this suggestion has interest and merit I will prepare a Memorandum of Understanding that can ultimately lead to a more formal agreement once the assessment and planning tasks outlined above are completed.

Sincerely,


Michael Freimuth
Executive Director