

EAST OAKLAND STADIUM ALLIANCE



January 16, 2020

Commissioner Rob Manfred
Major League Baseball
245 Park Avenue, 31st Floor
New York, NY 10167

Dear Commissioner Manfred:

Thank you for taking the time to respond to our Jan. 6 letter, which outlined the numerous reasons that Howard Terminal is an incompatible location for a ballpark and explained why it is profoundly unrealistic to expect that one could be built there on the timeline you have demanded. We wanted to respond to some of the claims you made in your letter and encourage you not to dismiss the tremendous opportunity to create a world-class ballpark and urban development at the Coliseum, which can and should serve as the Oakland A's home for generations to come.

First, we were confused by your assertion that the Coliseum "would require all kinds of amenities to be built as opposed to Howard Terminal." The opposite is true: unlike a new Coliseum ballpark, the Howard Terminal proposal would require more than \$200 million of new infrastructure. In addition, the A's are proposing to create millions of square feet of new amenities at Howard Terminal, which is currently an industrial zone. Those amenities include 1.77 million square feet of commercial development, up to 3,000 units of housing, a new 400-room hotel, a new 3,500-seat performance venue, and new retail. This same kind of urban, mixed-use development is not only possible at the Coliseum; it could get built much more quickly there, at lower cost, with far less public opposition and much greater public benefit.

Second, you wrote that nearly all of MLB's successful ballparks are located in urban cores. However, many of MLB's newest ballparks – including those serving the Atlanta Braves and Texas Rangers – have been built in locations far more suburban than Oakland's Coliseum, which sits in an urban location directly on public transit, two BART stops from Downtown Oakland. Likewise, you wrote that the Raiders and Warriors have decided they need to be "as close as possible to a thriving urban environment,"

and yet neither of the new stadiums serving these teams is in a downtown location. In fact, the Coliseum is far more transit-accessible than either Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas or the Chase Center in San Francisco. And of the stadiums you cited that have been constructed in waterfront locations, none of those ballparks were built on vital industrial waterfronts like Oakland's that support tens of thousands of irreplaceable blue-collar jobs.

Finally, your response was noteworthy for what you didn't say – namely, you made no acknowledgement of the concerns we expressed about the proposed ballpark's impacts on the livelihood of Oakland families or the livability of Oakland neighborhoods. It is disappointing that, in your public comments to date, you have never expressed that the wellbeing of Oakland communities is a factor in MLB's decisionmaking – even when given the opportunity to respond directly to these issues, as we invited you to do with our letter.

If MLB is unwilling to consider the best interests of the people of Oakland in this process, we hope the league will at least consider its own interests. You have spoken multiple times of your desire for swift approval and construction of a new Oakland ballpark. The best way to get your wish is to build it at the Coliseum.

Sincerely,

BayPorte Village Neighborhood Watch
California Trucking Association
Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of Northern California
GSC Logistics, Inc.
Harbor Trucking Association
Inland Boatmen's Union of the Pacific
International Longshore and Warehouse Union
International Organization of Masters, Mates, & Pilots
Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association
Pacific Merchant Shipping Association
Quik Pick Express, LLC
Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc.
SSA Marine, Inc.