



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

March 29, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

You have often said that infrastructure investments are key priorities of your Administration. And, as Mayor of Washington, DC, I could not agree more. The rehabilitation of our infrastructure not only strengthens and renews that infrastructure, but it creates jobs and lifts our economy as well. Here in our nation's capital, we have a strong, thriving economy and our unemployment numbers continue to fall. We stand ready to partner with you to invest in infrastructure and to create more economic opportunities.

As Chief Executive, it is my job to govern for 681,000 Washingtonians and to maintain a city that reflects our country's storied prosperity. We host more than 20 million visitors each year and are home to hundreds of thousands of commuters each work day. Both offer great economic rewards, yet bear a great cost to our infrastructure. I am committed to fostering development that will help us continue to attract visitors to DC to learn about their country's culture and values.

I offer for your consideration three major infrastructure projects important to Washington's residents and our economic prosperity which involve land transfers of: the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium (RFK), Franklin Park, and the Langston Initiative. Each of these projects is at a different stage of development and currently under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service (NPS).

In 1988, RFK was leased to the District for 50 years by the Department of Interior for limited use of the property for stadium purposes. It has been used for football, baseball, soccer and other community and entertainment events. In 2018, a new soccer stadium will be completed at Buzzard Point and the use for sports teams as the anchor tenant at RFK will lapse. We are seeking your attention to transfer outright or to extend the lease for the long term while also removing restrictions from future use. This site is surrounded by strong, diverse neighborhoods that would greatly benefit from activating the sea of parking lots that divide their access to the Anacostia River. We believe the site can be transformed to create and preserve green space, add much needed housing and retail, include a sports and/or entertainment purpose and above all generate jobs for our residents and the region.

Franklin Park is owned by NPS and is currently in need of many functional improvements and updates to enable the park to adequately serve visitors. The park's size and location provide a unique opportunity to significantly improve the community and the local economy by reimagining this green space. The five-acre park is located in the center of Downtown DC (between I and K streets NW, bordered by 13th and 14th Streets), located three blocks from the White House. It draws tourists, local residents, and workers. The park sits amid a thriving commercial district and a growing residential population, but has not fulfilled its promise as an urban federal park within the central business district.

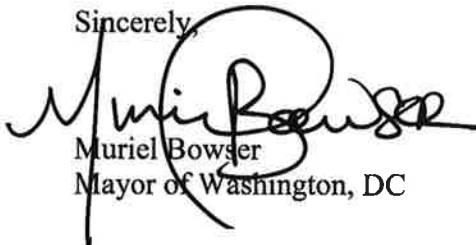
In 2012, a partnership was formed between NPS and Washington to transform the park and establish a sustainable maintenance and operation process. Efforts have been underway since that time with the intent to develop an active urban park. Currently, we are in the process of trying to execute a cooperative management agreement and construction agreement between the National Park Service and Washington, but execution has been stalled for several months. We are committed to this project and have budgeted funding in the upcoming fiscal year to develop Franklin Park.

The Langston Initiative focuses on the three golf courses owned by NPS: Rock Creek Park Golf Course, East Potomac Park Golf Course and Langston Golf Course. All of these courses have suffered from a lack of investment and vision. We have sought to upgrade these courses and provide a national urban model that serves a local, regional and national constituency. Several non-profits have encouraged the District and the Park Service to create a world class urban golf course system in the nation's capital on one of the sites and a family entertainment and golf practice facility on the others.

These three projects could model your Administration's encouragement of investing in infrastructure, through public and private partnerships, in an effort to develop collaborative opportunities that benefit residents and all Americans. These projects are among my key priorities including creating jobs, expanding housing, providing safe and reliable transportation, and growing the middle class.

In summary, we are seeking either a full transfer of jurisdiction or an extension of the term of the lease for an additional 100 years with a removal of restrictions limiting the use of the property to stadium and recreational purposes on RFK. Further, the National Park Service would benefit from transferring jurisdiction and expediting the Franklin Park project. Finally, we would welcome the opportunity to share the vision with your Administration on the Langston Initiative in the coming weeks. I look forward to discussing these opportunities more in depth with you and your staff.

Sincerely,



Muriel Bowser
Mayor of Washington, DC

Cc: Secretary Ryan Zinke, U.S. Department of Interior