

**Testimony of Nancy Huvendick  
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**Public Roundtable on The Ballpark Revenue Amendment Act of 2003, B15-270  
District of Columbia Committee on Finance and Revenue  
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Thank you for this opportunity to speak this afternoon. My name is Nancy Huvendick, I devote my time to Washington DC programs at the 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Fund, a non-profit organization which aims to improve public school facilities.

We also want to thank Ed Lazare and the DC Fiscal Policy Institute for the fine research they have done on this issue. Clearly, a baseball stadium can not be justified when the costs are lined up next to the real needs of District neighborhoods for vital services - - including and especially schools.

On a personal note, I must say that I have two sons in the DC public schools, one in seventh grade and one in eleventh grade. They both love baseball, pick favorite teams, track baseball statistics, make up fantasy teams, collect baseball cards, and in the past, participated in youth leagues. We make an almost yearly pilgrimage to Camden Yards. They would love to see a baseball team in DC.

However, as their parent, I know that they would benefit much more, every day of their lives, from decently repaired, thoroughly refurbished, well equipped school buildings. Those facilities might even include decent baseball fields so that their little league and school teams could be supported with fields equivalent to those in the suburbs. Our student athletes would be much more inspired - - every day - - by decent school and recreation facilities than by a professional DC team.

At present, good high school age baseball players who live in the District join club teams that play in the surrounding suburbs because the fields are so awful in the District. This is true with almost every sport: DC students who are exceptionally skilled practice and play in the suburbs. Not because we do not have the fields, not because suburban teams won't come into the District (they will - - and they see it as a positive destination), but because the fields we have are in such terrible shape.

As the Brookings Institute recently outlined, the most important key to attracting 100,000 new residents is better schools. DC needs 100,000 new middle-income residents more than it needs a baseball stadium.