CITY OF NEW YORK OFFICE OF COMMITTEE ON SLUM CLEARANCE RANDALL'S ISLAND

GEORGE E. SPARGO ASSISTANT TO CHAIRMAN HARRY TAYLOR

NEW YORK 35, N. Y.

TELEPHONE TRAFALGAR 6-9700

October 20, 1953

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Mr. Walter O'Malley, President Brooklyn National League Baseball Club 215 Montague Street Brooklyn 2, N. Y.

Dear Walter:

I have your letter of October 19. I attach a copy of the note I wrote to Frank Schroth in the event you have not seen it.

I want you to know that we shall all be glad to help but it must be on terms which are constitutional, legal and otherwise acceptable.

The big map and the small ones which Emil Praeger sent us reinforces our conclusion that you and your advisers simply have not grasped the restrictions under which we work on such quasi-public matters.

It is obviously your thought that we can some how go out and condemn property for a new Dodger field just where you want it, writing down the cost and in some way helping to finance the stadium. This is absolutely out of question as any good lawyer can tell you and as a matter of commonsense. On the other hand the members of the Slum Clearance Committee can and I am sure will agree to help you find a spot for the stadium and assist in zoning, street and related matters. It appears to me that the institution property on Atlantic Avenue is your best bet. The acreage you require as indicated by Emil Praeger on his sketches seems to be less than you indicated to me. I think that there are surrounding improvementson which the city and borough can help if you can buy this property, such as adjustments in the street system, entrances, exits, possibly a new school and playground, etc.

As to the other sites suggested by Mr. Praeger, I simply can't understand how he expects us to do anything about their acquisition, since the establishment of a new Dodger stadium is not of itself and by itself, a public purpose.

Mr. Walter O'Malley Brooklyn 2, N. Y.

October 20, 1953

If we can begin with an understanding of these basic principles I think we can get somewhere. Of course, I should not proceed in this matter without the knowledge and cooperation of John Cashmore. Suppose then a group of us meet with him after election.

Sincerely,

RM:VW attach

Chairman