

SENATORS BASEBALL

Philadelphia, PA

Senators Baseball

Steven Koplove
267-312-4023

September 3, 2020

School Board of Philadelphia

Re: Senators Philadelphia Baseball
Hilco Redevelopment Partners

Dear Members:

I am writing this letter from a somewhat different perspective than perhaps, some of the other letters you are receiving relating to Hilco Redevelopment Partners and their request to continue to extend Keystone Opportunity Zone benefits to the former Philadelphia Energy Solutions/Sunoco Refinery site.

By way of background, my name is Steven Koplove. I am a life long South Philadelphia resident. I live walking distance to the refinery. I attended Philadelphia Public Schools and graduated from Central High School 55 years ago. My children are city raised - a lawyer, a teacher, a major league baseball player and a minor league baseball player. I have practiced law as Public Defender, Assistant District Attorney and private attorney.

I have coached youth sports for 35 years. For the past 20 years, I have helped build and maintain a baseball field on the north end of the refinery.

The youth baseball development program using that field, for children from the ages of 7-18, directly resulted in 4 major league baseball players, 17 minor league baseball players and nearly 70 college baseball scholarships to some of the best colleges in the country.

It was always understood that the field was subject to the needs of the refinery owner, and it was understood and inevitable that the field would some day have to be closed.

When I received a phone call from Jasmine Sessoms from Hilco, I knew I was going to be disappointed.

But, I was not disappointed. Jasmine met with me immediately. We walked the field together and she promised to relocate the baseball program to a new and better location. We began to look for a new site together.

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Roberto Perez, CEO of Hilco Redevelopment Partners, personally met with me and we spent time together viewing an alternative site and talking baseball. He promised to relocate the field at Hilco's expense.

Hilco is under no obligation to find and build a new field. They just understood the value a baseball field can have for young children. They intended to be a good neighbor.

After practicing law in the city for 48 years and growing up in South Philadelphia, I believe I have a pretty good gauge on people's sincerity.

That aside, cleaning the refinery and creating nearly 20,000.00 new city jobs, the benefits derived from that alone, should be enough extend the Keystone Opportunity Zone.

Hilco will keep its promise with regard to the baseball field. Hilco will be a good member of the Philadelphia community. All Philadelphia will have to do is ask.

I support extending the Keystone Opportunity Zone.

Thank you.



Steven Koplove