



OFFICE OF JULIA MEJIA, CITY COUNCILOR AT-LARGE

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Dear Colleagues,

This morning, I received a call from the Assistant Clerk informing me that my resolution regarding the White Stadium project would be removed from today's agenda under Rule 15, which limits the Council to considering only the first-filed item on a substantially similar subject.

This decision came after the resolution had already been placed on the agenda and after the Council body, along with members of the public, had prepared for its consideration and vote today. At the August 6th meeting, when I introduced a previous iteration of this resolution, we were notified on the day of filing that it would not move forward also due to the same procedural rule.

Over the past three weeks, we have worked closely with the NAACP Boston Branch and community members to refine and strengthen this measure. The January 29, 2025 resolution on White Stadium was filed before the release of the transportation and parking plan and was narrowly focused on securing those documents, along with related environmental and alternative public plans, prior to further demolition. While draft transportation plans have since been released, significant questions remain. The resolution filed today reflects this new reality. It addresses broader, unresolved concerns around procurement practices, transparency in the decision-making process, and the equity impacts of the project on Boston Public Schools and surrounding neighborhoods, and calls for a comprehensive review of the newly released community plan.

The White Stadium project represents one of the most significant public investments undertaken. It involves millions of public dollars, the long-term leasing of a publicly owned asset, and decisions that will shape the future of Franklin Park, Boston Public School students, and the surrounding neighborhoods for generations.

As members of the City Council, we have a duty to review all options and ensure we act in the best financial interest of Boston's residents. While we recognize that White Stadium has suffered decades of neglect, that history does not justify accepting the first deal presented to us. Doing so would be a disservice to our residents, abutting neighbors, and most importantly, our students.

Throughout our January 22nd, 2025 nine-hour Council hearing, in neighborhood gatherings, and the receipt of countless emails and phone calls, we have consistently heard from impacted neighbors, residents, and students expressing that the process resulting in a public-private partnership for White Stadium did not reflect the needs of the park's primary users. It was at this very hearing where the \$91 million figure for White Stadium was revealed, nearly double the original \$50 million approved by the City Council in the FY24 Capital Budget, prior to the announcement of a public-private plan.



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Since then, new concerns have emerged. The *Boston Globe* reported that the soccer team failed to secure financing by the August 1 deadline set in a legal agreement with the administration, prompting the administration to extend the deadline by six weeks. This development raises further concerns on the project's short- and long-term financial viability and highlights that the lease agreement is open to re-negotiation.

Unlike the narrative, these concerns are not confined to a single group; they come from a broad and diverse range of voices, youth and long-time community leaders, alike from Boston's Black, immigrant, and Latino communities. And they are not limited to questions about community processes. Elected officials and respected experts in architecture, planning, design, and economics have raised substantive issues that demand answers. When a project of this magnitude involves an undisclosed public investment, it must be able to withstand scrutiny. If we are prepared to commit such significant resources, we owe it to the public to ensure the plan is sound, transparent, and defensible.

As stated during the July 24, 2025, post-audit hearing on procurement processes related to White Stadium, the administration confirmed that it has the flexibility and authority to revisit, amend, and renegotiate city contracts. On the record, the Chief Procurement Officer acknowledged that adjustments can be made, including changing the scope of work, modifying costs, and even terminating contracts if necessary.

By invoking Rule 15, we have effectively foreclosed the opportunity for this Council to have an open, substantive discussion on White Stadium. I respect our rules and procedures, but I also believe we must reflect on how their selective application can limit, rather than enhance, the public's expectation of transparency and accountability.

Although this resolution has been removed from the agenda, I will continue to work alongside the NAACP Boston Branch and other partners to ensure that the voices of our communities remain at the center of this process. I invite each of you to join me in demanding a transparent and comprehensive approach to the future of White Stadium.

Respectfully,

Julia Mejia, Boston City Councilor At-Large