

May 31, 2013

**Board of
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The Honorable Kasim Reed
Mayor, City of Atlanta
Email Delivered c/o:
sajacobs@atlantaga.gov

Dear Mayor Reed:

In response to the press conference held by Common Cause Georgia (CCGA) on the steps of City Hall yesterday, at which we announced CCGA's sponsoring a citizen petition for a referendum to repeal City of Atlanta Resolution 13-R-0615 authorizing City of Atlanta financing of a portion of the construction of a new stadium for the Atlanta Falcons, you have once again responded not to the issue, but with a personal attack against CCGA and its Executive Director, William Perry. This open letter is to call upon you to retract that ad hominem attack, and to cease and desist from such personal attacks in the future.

As mayor, you have a responsibility to exhibit more maturity and restraint in your public statements and actions in serving the citizens of this great city. We cannot understand your continuing refusal to debate issues such as the stadium and its financing on their merits.

Demonizing anyone who dares to even question your support of a new stadium, is unproductive and seems merely to be a tactic aimed at changing the subject.

To review, our two requests are, and have always been, straight forward: we believe an independent economic impact study is in order for a project of this magnitude. It may well be that a new stadium will generate enough revenue and opportunity to warrant its cost, but without an unbiased and quantifiable study, we are left only with opinion. Second, we strongly believe that the voters should have an opportunity to weigh in via referendum on a project that proposes to use many hundreds of millions of tax dollars.

Common Cause Georgia is simply utilizing a procedure for initiative and referendum which is fully authorized in the city's own charter and ordinances. Your vilifying such a citizen effort not only denigrates the City and its own ordinances, but suggests that you oppose citizen action – a hallmark of our democracy.

You should also know that CCGA and its Board of Directors stand firmly behind our Executive Director, William Perry. Your demonstrated pattern of attacking him personally is entirely irrelevant to the issues CCGA raises and is unbecoming to the city and its Mayor.

Accordingly, CCGA and its Board of Directors call upon you to debate the stadium financing issues by focusing on the relevant substantive issues we have raised, and to stop your personal insults.

Sincerely,

Jon Sinton
Chair, CCGA Board of Directors
For the Entire Board

Advisory Council:

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Lauren Barrett
Kathryn Ballou
Chuck Clay
Frank Critz
Bertis Downs
Diane Durgin
Mary Lu Mitchell
Stephen Mitchell
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