



Office of the Mayor

June 12, 2023

Mr. Kevin Warren
President and Chief Executive Officer
Chicago Bears Football Club, Inc.
[REDACTED]
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Dear Mr. Warren:

It has come to my attention that the Chicago Bears are no longer singularly focused on redeveloping Arlington Park as the franchise's new home. With this knowledge, it is incumbent on me as Mayor of Waukegan to make you aware of the City of Waukegan's opportunities, advantages, and history with the Bears organization.

The City of Waukegan, located along Lake Michigan, has multiple large parcels, including lakefront property within 20 minutes of the PNC Center at Halas Hall, that could be developed into both the state-of-the-art stadium and entertainment district the team has publicly expressed interest in building. In addition to the availability of land controlled by the City of Waukegan, the City also has excellent transportation infrastructure as Waukegan is located along Interstate 94 and U.S. Route 41, a major stop on Metra's Union Pacific North Line, and is home to Waukegan National Airport.

The Bears have a rich history in Lake County. In addition to the current PNC Center at Halas Hall, the previous Halas Hall was also located in Lake County at Lake Forest College, a short trip down Sheridan Road. Furthermore, the City of Waukegan was home to the Bears' winter training facility in the early 1990s. For generations, Bears players have called Lake County their home, including the neighboring towns of Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, Libertyville, Gurnee, Vernon Hills, Mettawa, and others. Some members of the Bears organization currently live in my neighborhood in Waukegan.

Home of NFL Hall of Famer Otta Graham, Jr., Waukegan is known as the City of Progress, and it is the full intention of my administration and our nine elected Alderpersons to ensure we live up to our motto. With over a half billion dollars of economic development projects underway, Waukegan is making unprecedented progress.

Our working class and diverse community is as tough as the 1985 Super Bowl-winning Bears, and our leadership team at Waukegan City Hall is as aggressive as Justin Fields running the ball



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downfield when it comes to creating economic opportunities for our City, our residents, and the region at large.

Our City's staff and I invite you and your leadership team to come to Waukegan to learn about the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity our City can offer the Bears. We believe that the Monsters of the Midway deserve the opportunity to continue the tradition of playing along the shores of Lake Michigan, with the market opportunity of having a year-round facility capable of hosting other major events, including the Super Bowl, the Final Four, and other events of an international scale.

Again, I would be pleased to host you and your leadership team to discuss a potential partnership between the Chicago Bears and the City of Waukegan. I can be reached directly by phone at [REDACTED] and by email at [REDACTED]

Thank you for your consideration. Go Bears!

Sincerely,

Mayor Ann B. Taylor
City of Waukegan

CC: Kevin Considine, President & CEO Lake County Partners
Dr. Michael J Reed, Chairman, Waukegan Chamber of Commerce
Congressman Brad Schneider
Illinois State Senator Adriane Johnson
Illinois State Senator Mary Edly Allen
Illinois State Representative Laura Faver Dias
Illinois State Representative Dan Didech
Illinois State Representative Joyce Mason
Illinois State Representative Rita Mayfield
Lake County Board Chairwoman Sandra Hart
Lake County Board Vice Chairwoman Mary Ross Cunningham
Lake County Board Member Angelo Kyle
Lake County Board Member Diane Hewitt
Lake County Board Member Ann Maine
Lake County Board Member Carissa Casbon