

AARON CLAY - COLISEUM STATEMENT

Thu, Aug 27, 5:14 PM (4 days ago)

In addition, as part of our Club's endorsement process, please tell us in writing in 400 words or less, your vision for the Coliseum land, your economic development strategy and your plan to achieve your goals?

The Oakland Coliseum is a city owned asset that should be invested in a manner that reflects the community's priorities and needs without jeopardizing our future. Currently, two of the more urgent needs in our community are housing and jobs. The Coliseum land has the potential to be part of a solution for both of those issues, but only if the land is not sold to a private developer.

The Oakland A's should stay in East Oakland and build a new stadium at the current Coliseum site, but under a long term lease with the City. The transportation infrastructure is already built out (BART, 880 Freeway) and won't cause additional environmental damage as would building on an industrial contaminated site at Howard Terminal. The remaining land should be developed based on the needs and for the residents in District 7. The Coliseum land is suitable for development for multiple sport teams, housing, retail, restaurants and other small local businesses.

Under HUD guidelines, "Low Income Affordable" in Oakland is an annual household income of \$105,350 for a family of four which is not affordable housing for most East Oakland residents. We need to be more intentional about providing housing and finding ways to fill the housing affordability gap. Utilizing city owned land, like the Coliseum, for more affordable housing makes more sense than building luxury condos that current residents can't afford. Having the city provide the land on a ground lease with affordable covenants can help fill that affordability gap while increasing a permanent supply of housing that Oakland residents can afford without being displaced.

The Coliseum land is extremely suitable for developing a sustainable local economic base rooted in the growth of the Green economy. We have a strong workforce of people who want well paying living wage jobs, commercial warehouses suitable for light industrial manufacturing and land zoned for industrial use perfect for creating a pipeline of clean energy jobs. By creating strategic partnerships with the tech and related industries in Northern California using the land and assets we already have, the Coliseum site can become the hub for clean technology providing a supply chain of different products to companies that require manufacturing suppliers. Making that investment in sustainable industry sectors that we know are about to undergo massive growth and that we know provides living wages and union jobs for local residents should be a priority.