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PRESS RELEASE

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**CITY OF BALTIMORE RELEASES SOCCER STADIUM
FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Baltimore, MD (December 22, 2010) - Today, the Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) released a market and economic study, conducted by the Maryland Stadium Authority, to determine feasibility of a professional soccer stadium in Baltimore.

The study analyzed the potential success for two possible scenarios – a 25,000 seat stadium for the DC United franchise, to be located in Westport, and a 7,000 – 10,000 soccer specific facility for the existing Crystal Palace franchise in the Carroll-Camden complex south of M&T Bank Stadium. The study was performed by Crossroads Consulting, with input from area stake holders.

Upon release of the study, the City will await proposals from potential private investors or developers interested in bringing either project to fruition.

Among the factors considered by the consultants were potential alternative uses for the sports facility, spending, jobs, and earning of generated by stadium activities, and incremental tax revenues. The market study focused on the corporate climate necessary to support a team and data on comparable facilities in similar markets.

The study determined that a relocated stadium in Westport would have approximately 49-54 events a year, including 17 MLS games featuring a relocated DC United franchise. Projected attendance would be 584,750 – 695,100 per year with total spending between \$65.7 and \$78 million per year. Total jobs are estimated at 780 - 940 per year with state tax revenues of approximately \$3.0 - \$3.5 million annually. This project is expected to generate \$2.3 to \$2.8 million yearly in City taxes.

A key finding of the study is that the evolving Westport complex needs to be redeveloped to fully realize these expected benefits.

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A smaller Crystal Palace facility could host 60-68 events per year, with total attendance between 228-282 thousand per year and total spending between \$6.4 and \$9.1 million per year. Between 80 and 110 jobs would be generated per year, with state taxes of \$288 and \$404 thousand. City taxes were calculated at \$178 - \$262 thousand per year.

However, the limited size of the Camden-Carroll site precludes development of surrounding fields, which are desirable for youth tournaments and other ancillary activities.

“We greatly appreciate the effort put into this study by the Maryland Stadium Authority and their consultants,” Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake stated. “Their professionalism and thoroughness have provided us with an invaluable insight to the economic landscape. This analysis will help us evaluate potential proposals for a professional soccer facility in Baltimore City.”

“The Maryland Stadium Authority was pleased to provide this study for the City of Baltimore and their partners,” stated Chairman John Morton III. “We greatly appreciate the cooperation of the many individuals and corporations who participated in the interviews, making it possible for us to provide a thorough analysis of the market and economic climate. Our professional staff and Crossroads Consulting did an excellent job in preparing this study.”

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