



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, July 23 , 2025

CONTACT: Press@HomesNotStadiums.org

Homes Not Stadiums Files Ethics Complaint Against Washington Commanders for Failing to Disclose Lobbying Activities

WASHINGTON, DC — Today, *Homes Not Stadiums*, a DC-based ballot initiative campaign committee, filed a formal complaint with the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability (BEGA) alleging that the Washington Commanders violated the District of Columbia's Ethics Act by failing to fully and accurately disclose lobbying activities and expenditures in their second quarter 2025 lobbying reports.

According to the complaint, the Commanders failed to report numerous lobbying-related communications and expenditures required under D.C. Code § 1-1162.30, despite engaging in an aggressive campaign to secure over a billion dollars public funding for a new NFL stadium at the RFK site.

"This isn't a technical oversight. It's a deliberate failure to comply with transparency laws while attempting to influence city leaders behind closed doors," said *Kris Furnish*, proposer of the Homes Not Stadiums ballot initiative . "D.C. residents deserve to know who is spending money to influence our elected officials—especially when public land and taxpayer dollars are on the line."

The complaint cites several likely violations, including:

- A [May 5 closed-door meeting](#) between Commanders owner Josh Harris, Mayor Muriel Bowser, Council Chairman Phil Mendelson, and nearly every D.C. Councilmember, which was not disclosed in lobbying reports;
- [Undisclosed digital advertising](#) urging residents to pressure Councilmembers, aired in May on X (formerly Twitter);
- [At least two separate town hall events](#) in May, where the Commanders' lobbyists spoke alongside Councilmembers and senior District officials—neither of which were reported;
- [A June 26 corporate-sponsored event](#), "Welcoming the Commanders Back to DC- The Future of RFK Stadium & Hill East," featuring the Mayor and Councilmember Wendell Felder, which was omitted entirely from the lobbying filings;
- And a [lobbying dinner at Café Milano](#) on June 30 for Councilmembers, where the Commanders reported attendance but failed to disclose any associated costs, in potential violation of both lobbying and gift rules.

"This is a textbook case of shadow lobbying," Furnish added. "The public has a right to know the true cost of this lobbying campaign—and whether our elected officials are being wined and dined by billionaires while critical needs like affordable housing go unmet."

Homes Not Stadiums is urging BEGA to investigate the omissions, enforce penalties for noncompliance, and compel the Commanders to submit a revised and truthful lobbying report. The complaint was submitted directly to BEGA Director Ashley Cooks and includes documentation from media reports linked above.

“We are not opposed to better housing, parks, or community development,” emphasized Furnish. “But these tactics betray public trust—and taxpayers should not foot the bill for a stadium whose promoters appear more interested in backroom influence than public benefit.”

Homes Not Stadiums is a ballot initiative campaign committee dedicated to stopping the Mayor’s taxpayer giveaway at the RFK stadium campus and redirecting public funds toward vital housing, infrastructure, and community services—instead of propping up professional sports franchises. We believe in ethical, transparent democracy and meaningful investment in DC’s resilient neighborhoods. Visit HomesNotStadiums.org to read the complaint and the ballot initiative text.

END