

## Nationals & DCSEC in Dispute Over Stadium Expenses

Written by Maury Brown  
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The **Washington Nationals** have a request for arbitration with the **D.C. Sports and Entertainment Commission (DCSEC)**

in a dispute over \$9 million in dollars “  
contractual issues

” associated to the construction of the new ballpark for the Nationals slated to open for next season (see

[details on the New Nationals Ballpark, including high resolution renderings](#)

and a

[computer animated &ldquo;fly-through&rdquo;](#)

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The term “contractual issues” seem to mean different things to the parties. As [reported by Tim Lemke of the Washington Times](#)

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&quot;The Washington Nationals and the District of Columbia have mutually agreed that there can be no resolution to certain existing unresolved contractual issues relating to the purchase of certain furniture, fixtures and equipment,&quot; Nationals president **Stan Kasten** said in a statement. &quot;Accordingly, the team has asked an arbiter to resolve the dispute. The parties believe arbitration at this time promptly resolves issues without jeopardizing a mutual commitment to completing Nationals Ballpark on time.&quot;

... &quot;We feel it's unfortunate that the team is pursuing arbitration,&quot; Sports commission chairman **Matthew Cutts** said. &quot;We have been working with the team and the deputy mayor's office to reach a compromise over the last several months.&quot;

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Part of the dispute involves matters such as the District being on the hook for installation of televisions and control rooms at the new ballpark, slated to open before the start of the 2008 season.

The outcome of any possible arbitration ruling could impact the budget that DC has available for the construction of the ballpark. The total cost of the stadium is capped at \$611 million, with only \$8 million in contingency monies left to work with. A ruling in favor of the Nationals ownership would put the total cost of the ballpark over the \$611 hard-capped budget.