

DC Mayor Williams Proposes Raising Spending Cap

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It seems \$611 million may not be enough to build the new Nationals stadium and its associated parking.

DC Mayor Anthony Williams is proposing legislation that would add an additional \$75 million to the project. Six months ago a contentious DC Council voted to cap the costs at \$611 million. As reported:

Although the council included \$25 million for parking in the initial budget, Williams (D) and his top aides say that is not enough to build the garages in a way that would allow for additional development on the site, such as condominiums, shops and restaurants. The mayor has promised that the ballpark project would spur new business and produce millions of dollars in tax revenue.

Under the proposal being developed by Williams, the D.C. Sports and Entertainment Commission and some council members, the council would be asked at its Oct. 18 meeting to alter the cap and allow additional public money to pay for stadium parking.

"All the council members agree that we need to maximize the economic benefits of the stadium," mayoral spokesman Vince Morris said yesterday. "If we do not do this, we lose out. . . . To not do it would be irresponsible."

([The Washington Post](#))