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PCDC Statement on Traffic Impact of the Proposed 76ers Arena

CHINATOWN, PHILADELPHIA - As Chinatown's only neighborhood planning and development organization, the Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation (PCDC) released a statement of opposition to the 76ers Arena Proposal on March 16, 2023. Since then, 76DevCorp has launched an extensive and misleading media campaign promoting the proposed arena. 76DevCorp underplays the project's inevitable, debilitating impacts on Chinatown. Chief among these is how traffic congestion stemming from the arena would destroy Chinatown's small business economy and cultural vitality.

The traffic impact study commissioned by 76DevCorp itself further validates PCDC's concerns. The study was released to Chinatown organizations through exercise of PA's right-to-know law. The study states that the arena would cause officially unacceptable levels of congestion at thirteen intersections spread across Callowhill Street, Vine Street, Race Street, Arch Street, Cuthbert Street, Filbert Street, and Market Street. The study states that congestion levels can be improved by closing 10th and 11th Streets between Market and Filbert Streets on event days. However, even with the proposed improvements, the study determines that several intersections along Vine Street would still have the worst levels of traffic delays.

76DevCorp's traffic plan is untenable with view to its destructive impact on Chinatown. The plan essentially requires the closing off of Chinatown's northern and southern entrances to visitors, whom the Chinatown economy relies on. By shutting down 10th and 11th streets and overwhelming Vine Street with the worst levels of traffic congestion, Chinatown will be suffocated on North and South sides especially around 5:30pm – 7:30pm, the same time Chinatown restaurants typically welcome dinner crowds. Moreover, bus routes 23 and 45 that typically run through Chinatown on 11th street will need to be rerouted, disadvantaging the many residents that rely on them and further deterring external patrons.

PCDC's survey from August 2023 shows that, out of 213 responses, 74% of visitors use a vehicle to travel to Chinatown. Some local restaurant owners state that approximately 30-40% of their business is done by delivery and how traffic congestion from Convention Center events have crushed the delivery business in Chinatown. Arena events will undermine Chinatown's restaurant economy in the same way.

76DevCorp's claim that parking is a non-issue is also unfounded. The 2020 Philadelphia Parking Inventory report found that the Chinatown/Convention Center area has only 1,360 public parking spaces.¹ 76DevCorp generously claims that up to 40% of the 18,500 arena-goers will take transit, leaving 60% or over 11,000 people driving, walking, or taking Uber. On every game night, all 1,360 spaces along with any street parking in Chinatown will tend to be filled first, before garages and streets elsewhere. No parking spaces will be left for Chinatown patrons.

Demolition and construction-related traffic congestion will have the greatest detrimental impact on Chinatown's economy. Based on cases in other cities, the 76ers arena will require major street closures lasting several years and cause unfathomable traffic disruption on all of Chinatown's connecting streets.

¹ Kanthor, D., & Ikirezi, B. (2020). *Center City, Philadelphia Parking Inventory*. Philadelphia City Planning Commission. Retrieved from <https://www.phila.gov/media/20211103150142/CentralPhiladelphiaParkingStudy2020.pdf>.

The resulting loss in economic activity and eventual closure of businesses is evident and guaranteed.² Many of Chinatown's family-owned businesses will not be able to survive this multi-year disruption.

The 76ers Arena Proposal is a clear existential threat to Chinatown's future and PCDC's mission to protect and preserve Chinatown as a viable ethnic, residential and business community. PCDC's findings show that the proposed 76ers arena would extinguish Chinatown's commercial base, lifeblood to the cultural and social fabric of the neighborhood. We urge our local officials and representatives to oppose the proposed 76ers arena in light of the facts and in honor of our community's collective right to ensure the future of our neighborhood.

About the Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation

Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation (PCDC) is a grassroots, non-profit, community-based organization. Our mission is to preserve, protect, and promote Chinatown as a viable ethnic, residential, and business community.

Contact us at info@chinatown-pcdc.org or <http://chinatown-pcdc.org/> to get involved in the community, whether it's through using our many resources, learning about the neighborhood, or volunteering.

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² McCarthy, E., & Perez-Castells, A. (2023, June 15). *Curran's pub has "no business" in the wake of road closures and detours. here's how area businesses are feeling the aftershock of the I-95 collapse.* The Philadelphia Inquirer.

<https://www.inquirer.com/business/retail/i95-collapse-philadelphia-currans-state-road-northeast-tacony-20230615.html>

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PCCDC 關於擬建的76 人隊籃球場交通影響的聲明

費城華埠- 作為華埠唯一的社區規劃和開發組織，費城華埠發展會(PCDC) 於2023年3月16日發表聲明，反對76 人隊籃球場提案。此後，76DevCorp 發起了廣泛且具有誤導性的媒體宣傳活動，宣傳擬建籃球場。76DevCorp 低估了該項目對華埠不可避免的破壞性影響。

其中最主要的是，籃球場造成的交通擁擠將如何破壞華埠的小型企業的經濟和文化活力。

76DevCorp 委託進行的交通影響研究進一步證實了 PCDC 的擔憂。

該研究透過行使賓州知情權法向華埠組織發布。

研究指出，該場館將導致卡羅山街、萬安街、禮士街、亞區街、Cuthbert 街、Filbert 街和市場街的13 個十字路口出現官方不可接受的擁塞程度。研究指出，在活動當天關閉市場街和 Filbert 街之間的十街和十一街可以改善擁擠程度。

然而，即使採取了擬議的改進措施，研究相信萬安街沿線的幾個十字路口仍然會出現最嚴重的交通延誤。

根據其對華埠的破壞性影響，76DevCorp的交通計畫是站不住腳的。

該計劃實際上要求關閉華埠的北部和南部入口，而華埠的經濟正依賴訪客。關閉十街和十一街，並把萬安街的交通推向最嚴重擁堵，華埠的北側和南側將變得窒息，尤其是在下午5:30 至7:30 左右，華埠餐館通常會在這時歡迎用餐人潮。此外，通常穿過華埠十一街的 23 路和 45 號公車將需要改道，這對許多依賴它們的居民不利，並進一步阻止外部顧客。

PCDC 2023 年 8 月的調查顯示，在 213 份回覆中，74% 的遊客使用車輛前往華埠。

一些當地餐廳老闆表示，他們大約 30-40%

的業務是透過送貨完成的，會議中心活動造成的交通擁堵已經嚴重影響了華埠的送貨業務。籃球館的活動也會以同樣的方式破壞華埠的餐飲經濟。

76DevCorp 聲稱停車不是問題也是毫無根據的。2020 年費城停車清單報告發現，華埠/會議中心地區只有 1,360 個公共停車位。¹ 76DevCorp 慷慨地聲稱，18,500 名觀眾中，高達 40% 會乘坐公共交通，剩下 60% 或超過 11,000 人將開車、步行、步行，或乘坐Uber。在每個比賽之夜，華埠的所有 1,360 個車位以及任何路邊停車位都將會先被填滿，然後才是其他地方的車庫和街道。華埠顧客將不再有停車位。

拆除和施工相關的交通擁堵將對華埠的經濟產生最大的不利影響。根據其他城市的案例，76人隊籃球場將需要關閉主要街道長達數年，並對華埠所有連接街道造成難以想像的交通中斷。由此造成的經濟活動損失和企業最終倒閉是顯而易見的，也是必然的。² 華埠的許多家族企業將無法度過這場多年的混亂。

76 人隊籃球場提案對華埠的未來以及 PCDC 保護和維護華埠作為一個可行的民族、住宅和商業社區的使命構成了明顯的生存威脅。PCDC 的調查結果表明，擬建的 76 人隊籃球場將摧毀華埠的商業基地，而商業基地是該地區文化和社會結構的命脈。我們敦促當地官員和代表根據事實並尊重我們社區確保社區未來的集體權利，反對擬建的 76 人隊籃球場。

關於費城華埠發展會

費城華埠發展會（PCDC）是一個草根的、非營利的、立足於社區的組織。我們的使命是保存、保護和推動華埠的發展使其成為一個充滿活力的民族的居住及商業社區。

請聯繫我們來參與社區活動，你可以使用我們的資源、深入了解我們的社區或者參與志願服務！要與我們聯繫，你可以發郵件給info@chinatown-pcdc.org或者訪問我們的網站<http://chinatown-pcdc.org/>。