

## OFFICE OF THE BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT

THE BRONX COUNTY BUILDING 851 GRAND CONCOURSE BRONX, NEW YORK 10451

TEL. 718-590-3500

FAX. 718-590-3537 E-MAIL: rdiazjr@bronxbp.nyc.gov

RUBEN DIAZ JR.
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

February 23, 2016

Mr. Randy Levine President New York Yankees Yankee Stadium One East 161st Street The Bronx, NY 10451

Dear Mr. Levine:

As a lifelong New York Yankees fan, I write in regards to your organization's draconian new ticketing policy that is not only a major inconvenience to premium season-ticket holders but also discriminates against baseball fans who might take advantage of free-market economics to occasionally enjoy a ball game at a reasonable price.

Considering that New York Yankees tickets are among the most expensive in all of Major League Baseball (MLB), and especially in light of the incredibly insensitive remarks recently made by team COO Lonn Trost, the organization is making it extremely difficult for your most loyal of Yankee fans to spend time and money on your team.

While I understand that team representatives claim these steps are necessary to combat ticket fraud, the method the Yankees have chosen of no longer accepting print-at-home tickets punishes the wrong people, putting the burden on the fans who emotionally connect with the franchise while depriving them of the opportunity to root for their favorite baseball team. In light of Mr. Trost's comments, and considering that *Forbes Magazine* has your team listed as the most valuable MLB franchise at \$3.2 billion, it is hard not to think of this as a blatant money-grab by the New York Yankees that hurts the pockets of the most diehard fans.

The new policy also hurts season-ticket holders looking to recoup some of the money they paid for games they may not be able to attend, selling them on the free-market, without being encumbered with a ticket-price floor policy used by Ticketmaster, at a value that market-forces may deem as "fair." The organization has already made money off the

purchased season-ticket and will make more money after the season-ticket holder sells to a buyer who will likely spend their hard-earned money on team merchandise and food at the concession stand while enjoying the game.

Faithful New York Yankees fans should not have to be caught in the crossfire of any longstanding feuds that the franchise may have with StubHub, particularly those lifelong fans from The Bronx. This new ticketing policy now makes it hard to watch a live Yankees' game, adding a major obstacle for Yankee fans from other boroughs and states, as well as tourists alike, from visiting The Bronx.

I ask that the Yankees reconsider this new ticketing policy that is extremely punitive towards the most devoted fans. I would also suggest that Mr. Trost be more mindful of his words, given his recent inclination to insult the vast majority of the Yankee fan base, myself included.

Since

Ruhen Diaz Ir