25th KZGN TV Talking Points Editorial

By: Tom Wiknich

Today’s topic, and I can’t even believe this even needs to be discussed: Are we really now making stadium construction decisions with worries of terrorist attacks?

In the last few weeks, there have been quite a few reports of two possible stadium construction projects in the Los Angeles area. I might add that these rumors have been going on for years now, except, now that there are two potential projects, there seems to be more activity.

One project is rumored to be associated with the Rams building a new stadium on the old Hollywood Park horse race track in the Inglewood area. Another one involves the Chargers and Raiders in the Carson area of Los Angeles.

But in a report put out by AEG, they cited a conclusion from ex-Homeland Security Chief Tom Ridge, who found the $2 billion project would offer up “a terrorist event ‘twofer’” because of its proximity to Los Angeles International airport. Ridge found terrorists could try to shoot a plane down from the stadium’s location or attempt to crash a jet into the stadium. Either case, he said, would have “a significant risk profile with the potential to produce consequences that will not only impact the airport and region, but global interests.” Ridge thinks the location is bad due to potential terrorist attacks. Are you kidding me? Are we now at the point where we have to consider these terrorists in even the locations for new stadiums? These conclusions come from a former Obama administration high official. That in itself should add considerable merit to the conclusion.

I’m appalled, but let’s look at this a little further. Here is a report with this finding, but it just so happens the report was generated by the firm supporting the Charger/Raider stadium project. The firm that is supporting the opposing project was hired to provide a location analysis of their competing project. Wow. Who was behind that sharp decision? It seems there may be some reasonable conclusions though. The NFL has stated that they probably won’t even consider such analysis in any decision making on the two opposing projects. NFL senior vice president Eric Grubman told the LA Times, “you should assume the NFL has its own experts hired and at work to assess any potential NFL site in any city regarding these matters. And it is that advice that we will rely on.”

In another voice of reason, the city of Los Angeles already approved Kroenke’s proposal on Tuesday. Finally, it appears that this recommendation is going to be dismissed. Personally, I think it should be thrown in the trash can. This is pure lunacy.

Even though the writer may not be impartial, the overtone of even considering the terrorists in an analysis like this is crazy. Does he realize how much he has legitimized the terrorists by making a recommendation like that? That a supposed intelligent man that dealt with the terrorist threat daily, when he was head of the department of homeland security, would not understand what his conclusion would do? We have a former President Obama administrator worrying about terrorist attacks now, and the Obama administration still sees them as amateurs, small groups of insignificant, misguided people.

It’s been 20 years since the NFL left the Los Angeles market. I would certainly like to see any team come to LA. But, don’t laugh too hard at me, but I am a San Francisco and….get ready….a Cleveland Browns fan. Yes, I admitted it, a Cleveland browns fan. Being born and raised in Cleveland, you learn dedication and loyalty to your team, not unlike almost any other city that hosts a major league team. The problem Cleveland has is while it really has had some very good teams over the years, they just can’t seem to make it to the final, big game, let alone win the big game.

Oh, by the way, I’d like to tell Mr. Ridge that over the last few years, Cleveland has built new stadiums for both the Browns and the Indians, all in the approach area of major airports. Finally, let’s not let these terrorists affect our way of life so much. If these guys want to attack, like many people think it’s going to happen any time, they will attack. This is a free country. They can sneak across our border from the south any time they want. Then they can just take their time and get ready for their big day.

In conclusion, let’s bring the NFL back to LA. It’s time.

And the heck with a study that purports that we should decide the location based on fear of terrorist attack.

I’m Tom Wiknich, and that’s what i think. If you have any comments about this editorial, or would like to discuss or recommend a topic, I’d like to hear from you. Please email them to info@kzgn.net