

**Statement of Robert Campbell**  
**Director of Security**  
**Washington Nationals Baseball Club**

**“Second Amendment Enforcement Act”**

**Committee on Oversight and Government Reform**

**2154 Rayburn House Building**

**September 9, 2008**

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight. I am Robert Campbell, Director of Security for the Washington Nationals Baseball Club. Prior to joining the team, I served twenty years with the U.S. Secret Service and retired in 2003 as an Assistant to the Special Agent in Charge of the Washington Field Office.

Like all ballparks in Major League Baseball, Nationals Park does not allow fans to carry firearms into the building. We believe this is a prudent policy that promotes the safety of fans, players, and others. Following are some of the factors behind this policy.

- There have been instances when players have been the victims of fan violence, both from projectiles and bodily attacks.
- Games, by their nature, can be emotional and some very gung-ho fans can be volatile based on the prospects of their teams.
- Insofar as alcohol is served, there are occasions when fan behavior is influenced accordingly.
- The ballpark is densely populated, with up to 42,000 people in a confined space.
- Given our location in the nation's capital, our fans often include dignitaries, to include: heads of foreign governments and high-ranking U.S. officials whose security could be compromised if they were in a situation where there might be firearms present.
- Depending on attendance, there could be as many as 1,000 employees in the ballpark, many of whose duties involve dealing with customers in fast-paced and sometimes hectic environments. Their ability to secure firearms safely would be compromised more than in most any other work environment..

Moreover, the ballpark is a secure place where fans can be assured of a safe and enjoyable atmosphere. We have had no instances of violent crimes committed against fans in the ballpark and very few minor crimes such as pick - pocketing. The ballpark is surrounded each game by a large number of on-duty District police officers who are assigned to traffic safety and other duties. In addition, the team hires a number of off-duty officers in uniform who provide added security inside the park. They are supplemented by additional contract security and our in-house contingent. In short, we feel that, in concert with the Metropolitan Police Department, we are providing a safe environment for families to spend together enjoying our nation's past-time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

Robert B. Campbell