

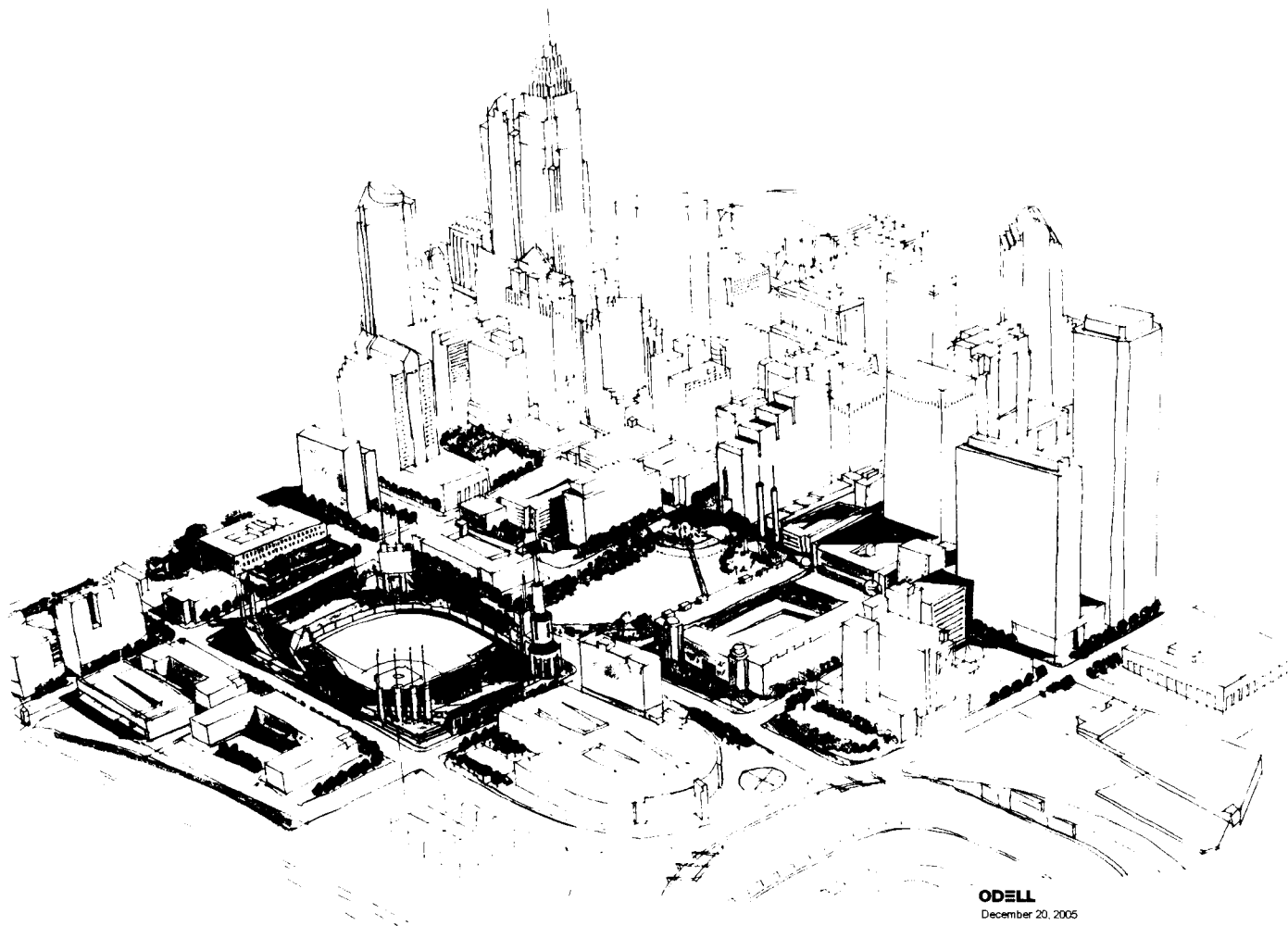
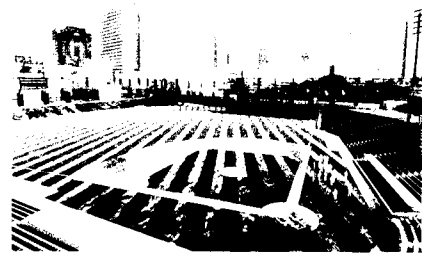
Buy Us Some Peanuts and Cracker Jack

Charlotte Chamber members are on the edge of their seats cheering for the Bring Back Baseball Team to hit a home run.

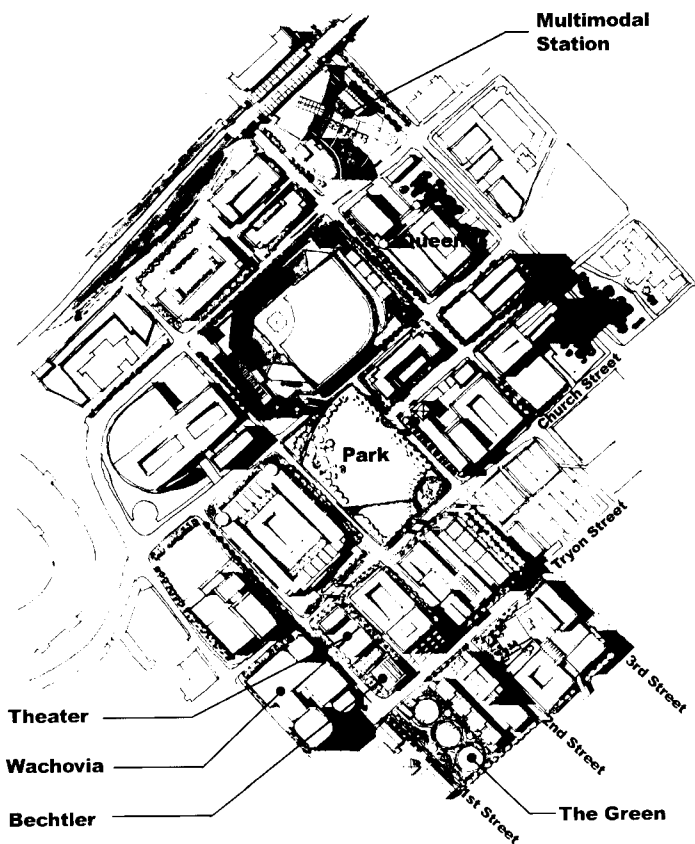
According to a recent survey of Chamber members, 86 percent are in favor of a stadium in the Center City, 83 percent said an Uptown ball park would make them more likely to attend a game, and 84 percent

said they were in favor of the land swap proposed by the Bring Back Baseball Team. Bring on the peanuts and Cracker Jack!

The Bring Back Baseball Team, launched by Charlotte Center City Partners, Charlotte Sports Commission and the Charlotte Knights, is on a mission to return Minor League Baseball to the Center City after a two-decade absence. And more people, businesses



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Church, Third, Second and Graham Streets. The proposal also provides Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools with a viable and economically sound means to replace its substandard headquarters. Translation: less pressure on individual taxpayers to fund improvements associated with this proposal.

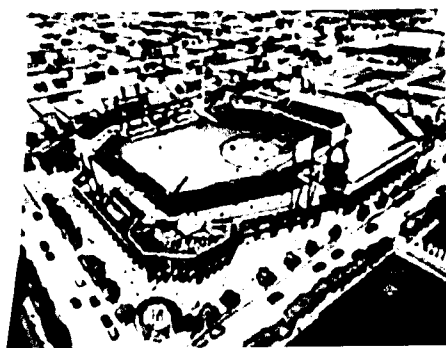
And for the people of Charlotte, the proposal provides affordable, convenient family entertainment. Anyone who has been to a Charlotte Knights game knows it's great family fun ... once you get there. How much more fun it would be without having to cross the state line and bear the "are we there yet" chorus from the back seat.

If you've been in Charlotte long enough to remember baseball's history in the region, you may have fond memories of the Charlotte Hornets (the baseball team's moniker long before basketball came to the Queen City) or the Charlotte O's. Maybe you even witnessed a few of baseball's greats – Cal Ripken, Eddie Murray, Harmon Killebrew or Tony Oliva – early in their careers at the old field in Dilworth. Or maybe you missed a few more recent stars – Jim Thome, Manny Ramirez and Livan Hernandez – who played for the Charlotte Knights in Fort Mill before going on to the major leagues.

It's time for a new generation of Charlotteans to fall in love with the easy rhythm of minor league baseball ... affordable tickets, warm weather, the great outdoors, up-and-coming players working their butts off to achieve their dreams, the smell of hot dogs on the breeze, the intimate atmosphere of a smaller stadium, the crack of the bat ... and the list goes on. If you want to help or learn more, visit www.bringbaseballback.com. Sign the petition to bring baseball back. Write a letter to local officials. And teach your little ones to sing, "Take me out to the ball game. Take me out with the crowd. ..." **V**

The most unique aspect of the proposal is that the Charlotte Knights have agreed to cover the costs of designing and building the stadium, while the county would retain control of the land. No other AAA squad in the country has paid privately for a stadium. The proposal also places the burden of Second Ward revitalization in the hands of private developers. In fact, the costs to local government would be limited to basic infrastructure, roads and sidewalks.

The benefits to local government, however, would be substantial. In addition to increased tax revenue – which would come from expected higher property values of surrounding, privately owned land and buildings – several areas of the Center City would experience a revitalization many Charlotteans have been fantasizing about for years, specifically the concrete wastelands of Second Ward and the area bound by



and organizations are joining the team every day. On Tuesday, September 6, Center City Partners convened a meeting of baseball supporters at the Charlotte Convention Center. Approximately 250 people showed up to lend their support and ideas and to hear the status of the team's efforts. With only 50 to 100 people originally expected, the turnout was surprising and encouraging, particularly in light of comments from local officials that they aren't sure how well the proposal is supported.