## THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN REGENTS COMMUNICATION

## **ACTION REQUEST**

Approved by the Regents February 15, 2007

Subject:

**Building Naming** 

Action

Requested:

Authorization to Name the Baseball and Softball Complex in Honor

of the Wilpon Family

## Background:

The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics has received a gift of \$4 million from the Judy and Fred Wilpon Family Foundation Inc. to support the baseball and softball stadium renovation projects. The Wilpon's gift is the largest single gift toward the stadium renovations, and has been instrumental in generating additional support.

Upgrades to the baseball and softball stadiums include additional seating, new concession areas, media facilities, locker rooms, administrative offices, and additional restrooms. Pedestrian circulation will be improved by upgrading the public plaza at the entrance to the complex.

Fred (BA '58) and Judy (BA '58) Wilpon, longtime supporters of the University of Michigan, have also contributed to other areas of the University, including: the Division of Kinesiology; the Health System; the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies; and the Knight-Wallace Journalism Fellows.

Mr. Wilpon is chair and chief executive officer of the New York Mets as well as co-founder and chair of Sterling Equities. In 2000, he co-founded and became chair of the Brooklyn Baseball Company, owner of the Brooklyn Cyclones.

The University proposes to honor the Wilpon family for their support of the baseball and softball stadium renovations. The Ray L. Fisher baseball stadium and the Alumni Field softball stadium facilities will be combined to be known as the Wilpon Baseball and Softball Complex (see attached map).

In recognition of this significant commitment from the Wilpons, <u>we recommend</u> that the Regents formally designate the area of Ray Fisher Stadium and Alumni Field as the Wilpon Baseball and Softball Complex.

William C. Martin

Donald R. Shepherd Director of

Intercollegiate Athletics

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy P. Slottow

Executive Vice President and

Chief Financial Officer

February 2007 Attachment

