

## Office of the Governor

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### NEWS RELEASE

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Gov. Christie Whitman today sent the attached letter to Newark Mayor Sharpe James concerning comments he made yesterday about the location of New Jersey's hockey team.

**July 2, 1998**

**The Honorable Sharpe James  
City Hall  
920 Broad Street**

**Newark, NJ 07102**

**Dear Mayor James:**

**Congratulations on your inauguration, I wish you and the City all the best during your fourth term.**

**As you know, I took my oath of office earlier this year at NJPAC, the nation's newest performing arts center. I chose to outline my vision for the next four years at this location, in your vibrant city, because I believe that the future of our great state, and indeed our great nation, will be determined substantially by how well our urban centers fare in the 21st century.**

**I remember fondly your reaction to this administration's commitment to New Jersey's cities in general, and to our continued commitment to Newark.**

**My administration and members of both parties in both Houses of the Legislature, are committed, as never before, to the revitalization of New Jersey's urban centers.**

**Needless to say, I was shocked to read today of the comments attributed to you by the Newark Star-Ledger.**

**The charges that racism figures into the decision making process for the future of the Meadowlands is an insult to everyone involved in this matter. Your comments were untrue and inappropriate.**

**Decisions about the future of the Continental Arena, or the construction of a new facility at the Meadowlands Sports Complex, in Newark, or anywhere else in the state, will be based on what is determined to be in the very best interests of the people of the state and the teams.**

**I hope that the remarks attributed to you were the subject of inaccurate reporting. If the remarks were reported accurately, I hope that you will recognize that they inject a whole new dynamic into an already complicated equation.**

**Yours sincerely,**

**Christine Todd Whitman**