**Does the Performance of a City’s Sports Teams Impact the Happiness of the Populace?**

**Introduction**

In 2012 The Barclays Center opened in Brooklyn becoming the new home to the (formally) New Jersey Nets – the first professional sports team in Brooklyn since The Brooklyn Dodgers defected to Los Angeles in 1957. At the time the owner of the Dodgers, Walter O’Malley, wanted to build a new stadium next to the Atlantic Railroad Yards and wanted the city to seize the property for him using eminent domain. Robert Moses refused to give the Dodgers the land, instead offering them land in Flushing, Queens which would eventually become the home of the New York Mets. Unable to get the exact location he wanted, O’Malley moved the Dodgers across the country to Los Angeles. Half a century later the city used eminent domain to seize property for the Atlantic Yards Development which includes the Barclays Center, displacing up to 3000 people from their homes[[1]](#endnote-1).

There seems to be very little economic benefit to a city by having a professional sports team[[2]](#endnote-2)[[3]](#endnote-3) but maybe there is some other benefit that can justify evicting people from their homes to make room, or the huge subsidies cities often give to sports teams. Does having a local sports team make a city’s populace happier?

1. http://dddb.net/eminentdomain/papers/appeal/AppellantBrief.pdf [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. http://www.marketplace.org/topics/business/are-pro-sports-teams-economic-winners-cities [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. http://college.holycross.edu/RePEc/spe/CoatesHumphreys\_LitReview.pdf [↑](#endnote-ref-3)