



No Games Chicago Update

70 Days To Decision

Daily News

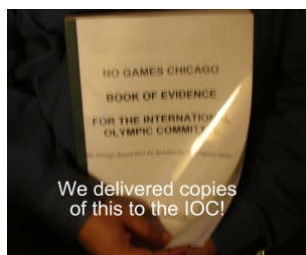
July 23, 2009



Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

As we are 70 days away from your decision as to who will get the 2016 games, we'd like to keep you informed of Chicago news on a daily basis.

As a reminder, we'd love to hear your comments on the "Book of Evidence" we left for you in Lausanne. If you did not receive a copy please contact Mr. Adams and request he send you a copy. If you would prefer an electronic version you can download it from our website, www.nogameschicago.com.



[Visit our web site and download the "Book of Evidence" that we delivered to you in Lausanne!](#)

[Open letter to the IOC: "Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"](#)

***Wanna Buy an Olympics?
Why is the mayor's A team only now hitting the neighborhoods to pitch Chicagoans on the Olympic bid?***

By Ben Joravsky- Chicago Reader - July 23, 2009
[Read this online.](#)

In a more perfect democracy, the campaign to host the 2016 Olympic Games would have been the subject of intense public scrutiny from the moment Mayor Daley proposed it three years ago.

The financial projections would've been scrutinized by independent-minded aldermen and their whiz-kid staffers. There would've been public hearings where ordinary citizens would get to question Daley's Olympics planners. There might even have been a referendum, carefully worded to let people know exactly what they were getting into-something along the lines of "This could cost us all a ton of money. Do you still want it?"

Olympic economics

How can our politicians, all under the same breath, be talking about the 2016 Chicago Olympics when words such as "layoffs," "furloughs," "tax hikes" and "shortfall" are coming out of their mouths?

Cristina Vargar, Chicago

Letter to the Editor
Chicago Tribune
July 22, 2009



But what Chicago has is not an ideal democracy. So here we are three years later, heatedly pursuing Mayor Daley's Olympics dream whether we want to or not.

Recently, though, the Chicago 2016 planners have been holding forums across the city. The mayor had no choice: in June he promised International Olympic Committee officials he'd sign the standard host city contract, which will make Chicago taxpayers the guarantors of any cost overruns—a figure that could run into the billions of dollars. The fallout was immediate. Aldermen, already under siege after the parking meter lease debacle, demanded an opportunity to examine and vote on the fine details of any funding package. So to pacify the aldermen and show the IOC that Chicagoans truly want the games—despite whatever IOC commissioners might be reading in the papers—Daley announced a series of community meetings in which the planners would bring the case for the games directly to the people.

I had to wonder: What assurance could they possibly offer that public dollars won't be spent that the public hasn't already heard for years?

The short answer: none.

That said, the two hearings I sat through were fairly impressive dog and pony shows. Cheery, well-dressed young volunteers were on hand to pass out flyers, maps, rubber wristbands, and other doodads. And to answer questions, Daley sent in the A team: Patrick Ryan, CEO of the Chicago 2016 Committee; Lori Healey, president of the committee; Doug Arnot, director of venues and games operations; and Kurt Summers, Healey's chief of staff.

They didn't merely show up and screen their promotional videos, featuring inspirational testimonials from local athletes and a pitch from President Obama. They tailored each presentation to its audience. For instance, there was a white moderator, Chicago 2016 spokesman Patrick Sandusky, at the July 13 meeting at North Park University on the northwest side. The meeting two days later at the South Shore Cultural Center on the south side was moderated by Chicago 2016's director of neighborhood legacy, Arnold Randall, who's black.

Two Olympians—both white—showed up on the northwest side to wave at the crowd. Ryan introduced them, but they sat in the audience.

On the south side, three black Olympians sat facing the audience alongside Ryan, Healey, and other officials. Sprinter Connie Moore—who grew up in South Shore and was a member of the 2004 American team—gave a brief speech. Randall encouraged the crowd to ask the Olympians questions about their Olympics experiences, as though their personal tales had some relevance to the pressing financial and planning matters at hand. On the north side, Ryan and Healey by and large addressed the issue of cost as if they were speaking to a group of concerned taxpayers. As Ryan explained it, the games would pay for themselves and more: they would cost \$3.3 billion to stage and bring in \$3.8 billion in revenues. That \$500 million balance would fund "legacy" programs in needy neighborhoods for decades to come.

On the south side, Ryan and Healey repeated those projections, but they and others largely emphasized the jobs and opportunities the games would create. People who want jobs in these bleak economic times better jump on the Olympics bandwagon, they said, because it could be the only game in town. They urged the audience to visit the Chicago 2016 Web site to learn how to apply for jobs and contracts.

There were even different Obama videos for each crowd. The one on the north side showed him looking presidential, sitting before the flag in the White House and speaking directly to the IOC. On the south side, Obama was seen offering a rousing campaign speech last summer in Daley Plaza. "In 2016 I'll wrap up my second term as president," he said. "I can't think of a better way than to be walking into Washington Park alongside Mayor Daley and announcing to the world, 'Let the games begin.'"

But despite these heroic efforts, neither audience was buying what the Olympic planners were selling. "Let's have a referendum," a man in the North Park audience blurted out. "Please, let's be respectful," said Ryan. "Let's hold a referendum," the man persisted.

When Ryan assured the North Park audience that the Olympics venues could all be reached by bus so there'd be no need to create extra parking, another guy cracked, "There's not enough quarters in the country to pay the meters."

The session culminated with a question from a woman near the back: "What are your policies to guard against corruption?" Ryan responded that

Chicago 2016 is governed by "a group of very responsible people."

Opposition at the South Shore Cultural Center was even stronger. For every person in the crowd who spoke up in favor of the games, at least eight others spoke against them. They demanded jobs now-not in seven years. They correctly pointed out that the "community benefits" agreement is not legally binding but merely sets out a series of goals for the creation of affordable housing and jobs for minorities and women. They accused officials of condescending to them-"Barack Obama, Oprah, and Michael Jordan don't speak for me," one woman said. They scoffed at promises to use the games to improve recreational programs in the inner city ("Do it now," one man demanded), and they mocked the cheery financial projections.

"You're all projecting you're going to make a lot of money," declared one woman. "Bankers projected making a lot of money, Madoff projected he was going to make a lot of money. If your plan fails, where will the money come from? Will it come from hospitals, schools, parks-or are they going to issue a lot more of those red light tickets?"

So now what? Any way you look at it, supporting the games requires a leap of faith. You either believe the optimistic projections of Daley, Ryan, Healey, Randall, and all the other cheerleaders, or you tell yourself that the Olympics will be so good for Chicago you don't care how much they cost.

Once these community hearings end in mid-August, the public will pretty much have had its say. The sneers and jeers may embolden a handful of aldermen to oppose the mayor when the council eventually votes on the full-funding commitment, but the council will probably approve it anyway. And with that the action will shift to a new audience-the IOC. This eclectic group of 100-some Olympic insiders-many of them former Olympians-will meet in Copenhagen on October 2 to make a final decision."

At the moment Chicago's bid seems to be in trouble. The latest ranking from Gamesbid.com, which surveys the horse race, has Chicago dead last in the four-city competition, behind Tokyo, Rio, and Madrid.

Chicago's planners are clearly hoping for a big boost from Obama. Four years ago, Paris was the favorite to win the 2012 games. But in the end, the IOC voted 54 to 50 for London, thanks to a last-minute pitch from Prime Minister Tony Blair.

If Obama successfully pulls a Blair and uses his considerable charm and charisma to woo over the IOC, it won't matter whether the larger Chicago public is for, against, or ambivalent about the games. But then that's been true all along.

Ben Joravsky discusses his column weekly with journalist Dave Glowacz at <http://mrradio.org/theworks>.

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No Games Chicago Update

69 Days To Decision

Daily News

July 24, 2009

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

Today's update comes from the [Hyde Park Herald](#), Chicago's oldest community newspaper. This article reports on several 2016-related community meetings held on the south side of the city.

Olympics supporters make broad South Side push

Olympics boosters plead their case. But will it be enough to convince Hyde Parkers, other South Siders?

By SAM CHOLKE
Staff Writer
KATE HAWLEY
Associate Editor

Olympics discussions regained momentum last week in a flurry of meetings meant to reassure South Side residents that the city and Olympic planners are willing to listen to their input.

The Jackson Park Advisory Council's July 13 meeting was dominated by talk of the Olympics. And on July 18, Chicago 2016 officials led a discussion about legacy planning for Washington Park, which would be home to an Olympic stadium for track and field and an aquatics center if Chicago

wins its bid to host the 2016 Summer Games.

The largest gathering drew more than 200 residents from the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th wards to the South Shore Cultural Center, 7059 S. Shore Drive, on July 15. It was the first in a series of ward-based meetings organized by Chicago 2016.

South Shore Cultural Center

After a brief presentation, Chicago 2016 Chairman Patrick Ryan and President Lori Healey answered questions for more than an hour. Many in the crowd were distrustful of the city and business interests, which have backed the Olympic

See **OLYMPICS** on page 9



Left to right, end of second row from bottom: Jawanza Malone, Jay Travis, Jitu Brown and other Kenwood Oakland Community Organization representatives join more than 200 people at the South Shore Cultural Center.
Marc Monaghan

OLYMPICS

from page 1

"Oprah and all those people who gave money do not speak for us," one woman said, referring to Chicago 2016's deep-pocketed donors. "I hope I'm not bursting your bubble, but you're not getting your Olympics."

Many expressed dismay that the plan for the Olympics was being pushed and funded by wealthy patrons from Chicago's business world who would not be accountable at the polls should the Games not bring the jobs and economic developed promised by Chicago 2016.

"Who on the committee is a politician?" said another woman, one of many eager to heap scorn on the city's political class, which was repeatedly accused of being "corrupt" by the audience.

Washington Park

Reactions to the Olympic plans were more mixed Sunday at the Washington Park Refectory, 5531 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. It was the third in a series of meetings aimed at seeking community input on plans for Washington Park.

Arnold Randall, director of neighborhood legacy for 2016, presented several proposals for what should be left in the park after the Games. The stadium would shrink to a 2,500- to 3,500-seat amphitheater located in the southeastern corner of the park's meadow.

All of the pools would be dismantled except one, which would replace the existing pool at Dyett High School, located in the park's north end at 555 E. 51st St.

The Illinois National Guard Armory would be transformed into a community athletics facility. Talks are ongoing with the state of Illinois about transferring ownership of the armory to the Park District after the Games.



Chicago 2016 President Lori Healey speaks at the South Shore Cultural Center.

Randall said. Somewhere in the park, Chicago 2016 would build a memorial to the Olympics, he added.

The roughly 50 people who attended the meeting, many of whom were Hyde Parkers, broke into small groups to debate these and other proposals. Most eagerly pored over the maps and information provided by Chicago 2016.

But Koublai K.M. Toure, who works with at-risk youth, and Billy Bean, who coaches sports in the park, protested loudly that youth sports that currently take place in the park would be put on hold for two years.

Others were unhappy that the Olympic plans will disrupt the historic park landscape designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. "We reject Washington Park as the location of the swimming ... and the Olympic stadium and encourage an alternate location," said Hyde Park resident Steven Flowers.

Stephanie Franklin, the longtime head of the advisory council for Nichols Park, agreed.

"The majority of our table agreed with the idea that the Olympics should not be in Washington Park at all," she said.

Others were enthusiastic about the prospect of Olympic venues. "We are excited, and we encourage the Olympics coming to Washington Park in 2016," said Hanna Anderson. "Bring on the Games!"

Jackson Park

At the Jackson Park Advisory Council meeting at the park's field house, 6401 S. Stony Island Ave., members met with Tom Tressor of No Games Chicago, a group advocating against the Olympics.

"You have to understand, when the Olympics come to your city, you lose your sovereignty," Tressor said.

The roughly a dozen people at the meeting sympathized with Tressor, but declined to act



Marc Monaghan

"We will not rest until we have a legally binding agreement" ensuring benefits for communities around Olympic venues, states Jay Travis, executive director of the Kenwood Oakland Community Organization .



Marc Monaghan

Brad Suster, developer and founding board member of Preservation Chicago, entreats Chicago 2016 representatives to save buildings designed by Walter Gropius on the Michael Reese hospital site and incorporate them into plans for an Olympic village.

on his request for a statement from the council against the Olympics. Jackson Park is the proposed location for a 10,000-seat venue for field hockey and Paralympic football.

"We've already taken a position on this," said Ross Peterson, president of the advisory council, holding up a Hyde Park Herald from January 2007 with the headline "JPAC says no to the Olympics."

"I don't want to be the guy who beats this issue so badly and with such impudence that I hurt this park," he said. "I don't think we need to do anything but be skeptical."

Peterson said he continued to have reservations about the city's bid, in part because the plan had not been revised in light of a worsening economic situation.

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No Games Chicago Update

68 Days To Decision

Daily News

July 25, 2009

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

Today's update comes from [NBC News Chicago's online service](#). We continue to share with you coverage of the community meetings being staged by the Chicago 2016 Committee.



Chicago's Backwards Olympic Bid Public invited in - sort of - at end

By STEVE RHODES - July 24, 2009



Now that the city is just a few months away from finding out if it will be awarded the 2016 Olympics, an actual real debate has erupted among taxpayers about whether they actually, really want it.

Isn't this backwards?

Yes, but if City Hall and local Olympic officials had their way, they would have made it all the way to October without having

to include taxpayers who will foot the bill in their plans.

"In a more perfect democracy, the campaign to host the 2016 Olympic Games would have been the subject of intense public scrutiny from the moment Mayor Daley proposed it three years ago," [Ben Joravsky writes in the Reader](#).

"The financial projections would've been scrutinized by independent-minded aldermen and their whiz-kid staffers. There would've been public hearings where ordinary citizens would get to question Daley's Olympic planners. There might even have been a referendum, carefully worded to let people know exactly what they were getting into - something along the lines of 'This could cost us all a ton of money. Do you still want it?'

"And if the answer were yes, we'd have moved on to try to win the International Olympic Committee's approval. "But what Chicago has is not an ideal democracy. So here we are three years later, heatedly pursuing Mayor Daley's Olympic dream whether we want to or not."

In fact, the only reason why the public is suddenly engaged in debate - and why at least some portions of the mainstream media have belatedly awoken to the fact that all is not what local Olympic officials make it seem - is that what the mayor told the International Olympic Committee behind closed doors somehow made its way back to Chicago and confirmed what critics have said all along: the city is handing the IOC a blank check.

[Even Fran Spielman of the Sun-Times](#), which has been one of the main Daley water-carriers for the Games bid, was moved this week to note that "Newspaper editorials have been overwhelmingly supportive of the city's bid to host the 2016 Summer Olympic Games. Some of the television coverage has been so gung-ho, reporters sounded like cheerleaders."

The Tribune's John Kass, who [unsurprisingly has been onto the mayor's game from the get-go](#), nearly alone among mainstream media figures, noted himself this week that "the mayor has accused the news media of not being onboard with his Olympic dreams. Who do you think he was referring to, exactly? The Tribune proudly flew Chicago 2016 flags from Tribune Tower."

The turning of the tide answers the question Joravsky poses this week: "Why is the mayor's A team only now hitting the neighborhoods to pitch Chicagoans on the Olympic bid?"

Because public support is eroding.

"The more people hear about this, the more they oppose it," [anti-Olympics activist Tom Tresser](#) said on [Chicago Tonight this week](#).

So the mayor's bid-masters have set out in a series of meetings across the city to change what taxpayers are hearing - these are not meetings being held for the benefit of residents who want to question aspects of the bid or venture their opinion. These meetings are intended to communicate in one direction only.

"These are not hearings," Chicago 2016 operations director Doug Arnot said on Chicago Tonight, "they are public forums where the public has the opportunity to get information."

Oh thank you for the opportunity!

Now shut up and listen!

"As promised, I had an open mind last night when I went to the Chicago Olympic committee's community meeting at North Park University," Joravsky wrote after attending one of these meetings.

"I listened to Chicago 2016 chairman Patrick Ryan, president Lori Healey, and venue director Doug Arnot make their case for committing untold billions to Mayor Daley's games.

"But sorry - they lost me when they claimed that providing recreational opportunities for underprivileged children in low-income neighborhoods was their primary motivation for staging the games."

The problem Olympic organizers face now is folks leaving these meetings laughing.

Steve Rhodes is the proprietor of [The Beachwood Reporter](#), a Chicago-centric news and culture review.

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No Games Chicago Update

67 Days To Decision

Daily News

July 26, 2009



Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

On Monday, July 27, the [Finance Committee of the Chicago City Council](#) will consider an ordinance introduced by [Alderman Manny Flores](#). This legislation would place a limit on the amount of Chicago tax-payer's money could be spent on the 2016 Olympic games to a limit of \$500 million.

The People Speak

We do not have the money to put on a successful Olympics, and our city and state are both in shambles as it is. Bringing the Olympics here would be a disservice to the athletes involved, the nature of the activity, and the citizens of Illinois.

Ms. S.W. , Elmhurst

Comment on No Games online petition - July 21, 2009



ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago is a home rule unit of government by virtue of the provisions of the Constitution of the State of Illinois of 1970 and, as such, may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs; and

WHEREAS, The City has proposed hosting the summer Olympic Games, including the Paralympic Games constituting a part thereof (the "2016 Games") in 2016; and

WHEREAS, In pursuing the honor of hosting the 2016 Games, the City has worked cooperatively



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[Open letter to the IOC: "Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"](#)



with Chicago 2016, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation (the "Bid Committee") formed for the purpose of assisting and representing the City in the Olympic Games bid application process in accordance with International Olympic Committee ("I.O.C.") protocols; and

WHEREAS, In early 2007, the Bid Committee submitted the City's bid application materials to the United States Olympic Committee ("U.S.O.C.") in connection with the U.S.O.C.'s selection of the United States' host city candidate in April 2007; and

WHEREAS, In connection with such bid application, and by an ordinance adopted by the City of Chicago City Council (the "City Council") on March 14, 2007 and published in the Journal of the Proceedings of the City Council of the City of Chicago titled "AUTHORIZATION FOR EXECUTION OF AGREEMENTS WITH VARIOUS PRIVATE AND MUNICIPAL ENTITIES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CITY OF CHICAGO'S BID APPLICATION TO HOST 2016 OLYMPICS", the City Council provided for the authorization of the City's execution of, among other things: (a) certain City of Chicago Olympic Commitments Agreement; (b) certain intergovernmental Agreements by and between the City and the Chicago Park District, the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority, the Board of Education of the City of Chicago and certain other public bodies whose properties may serve as venues for Olympic Games; and (c) a Joinder Undertaking and Joinder Agreement (the "Joinder Agreement") pursuant to which the City has committed to provide certain guarantees and indemnities, subject to the limitations set forth therein; and

WHEREAS, Under the Joinder Agreement, the City's financial obligations (referred to as the "Maximum Liability") were capped at \$500,000,000; and

WHEREAS, On April 14, 2007, the U.S.O.C. selected the City as the United States' Applicant City for the 2016 Games; and

WHEREAS, On June 4, 2008, the I.O.C. selected the City as one of the final four Candidate Cities for the 2016 Games; and

WHEREAS, After June 4, 2008, the I.O.C. then issued its "2016 Candidature Procedure and Questionnaire" (the "Candidature Procedure"); and

WHEREAS, The Candidature Procedure is the

document provided by the I.O.C. to Candidate Cities that explains the candidature process, sets forth certain questions that the Candidate Cities must answer, and requests certain mandatory guarantees that the Candidate Cities must provide prior to February 12, 2009 as part of their bid application; and

WHEREAS, In July, 2008, the I.O.C. also issued the form of "Host City Contract for the Games of the XXXI Olympiad in the Year 2016" (the "Host City Contract"); and

WHEREAS, The Host City Contract is the primary legal document that shall govern the organization and operation of the 2016 Games, and, if the City is selected to host the 2016 Games, must be executed by the City and the U.S.O.C. immediately following the I.O.C.'s selection of the host city on October 2, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Following the I.O.C.'s selection of the host city for the 2016 Games, the I.O.C. shall also execute the Host City Contract, which shall become binding upon such parties; and WHEREAS, the City Council is charged with protecting the short and long term economic viability of the City; now, therefore

Be It Ordained by the City Council of the City of Chicago:

SECTION 1. The foregoing recitals are hereby adopted as the findings of the City Council and are incorporated herein and made a part of this ordinance.

SECTION 2. As referenced in Section F of Part II (Covenants of the City) of (Sub)Exhibit "A" (Joinder Agreement) of Exhibit "F" (Joinder Undertaking) in the "AUTHORIZATION FOR EXECUTION OF AGREEMENTS WITH VARIOUS PRIVATE AND MUNICIPAL ENTITIES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CITY OF CHICAGO'S BID APPLICATION TO HOST 2016 OLYMPICS" executed and approved by the City Council on March 14, 2007, the City's obligations under the City Liabilities and Net Financial Deficit shall not exceed Five Hundred Million Dollars (\$500,000,000) in the aggregate (referred to as the "Maximum Liability").

SECTION 3. The City of Chicago, and any and all entities acting on behalf of the City of Chicago, in connection with any aspect of the City's bid for the

2016 Games, is hereby prohibited from providing financial guarantees that could obligate the City to exceed the \$500,000,000 Maximum Liability under the Joinder Agreement executed and approved through the prior ordinance adopted by the City of Chicago City Council on March 14, 2007 and reaffirmed through an ordinance adopted by the City Council on January 13, 2009 and published in the Journal of the Proceedings of the City Council of the City of Chicago titled "EXECUTION OF AGREEMENTS CONCERNING CHICAGO'S CANDIDACY TO HOST 2016 OLYMPICS", unless otherwise authorized by the Chicago City Council.

SECTION 4. This ordinance supersedes any language within Section 2 of the March 14, 2007 and January 13, 2009 agreements that may be construed as limiting the authority of the City Council to affirm the \$500,000,000 cap on the City's financial obligation to the Games.

SECTION 5. This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and approval.

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Daily News

July 27, 2009



Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

[Today the New York Times ran this article](#) further documenting the deterioration of public support for the 2016 bid in Chicago.

Recession Shadowing Chicago Bid for Games By MONICA DAVEY

CHICAGO - On a recent afternoon, Mayor Richard M. Daley delivered his annual speech on the condition of the city he has run for 20 years. Revenues may fall \$250 million short. Some city workers must take 15 unpaid days this year, including Mr. Daley. More than 400 workers were laid off that very afternoon, after talks with two unions collapsed.

In the same address, Mr. Daley pressed forward with the city's efforts to host the 2016 Summer Olympics, which carry an expected \$3.3 billion price tag. A decision by the International Olympics Committee is due in October, and Chicago is considered a favorite among the four finalists.

Polls here suggest broad support for bringing the Olympic Games to the city. But increasingly, the economic downturn is taking a central role in the local debate over the bid as more residents raise concerns that Chicago taxpayers, already struggling, could be left paying the bills despite assertions from organizers that no city dollars will be needed.

"How do we know?" a resident, Douglas Brown, demanded of leaders of the Olympics bid during a recent neighborhood meeting on the South Side. "We can't take your word for it," Mr. Brown said, adding, "When do we get our guarantees to make us

The People Speak

Not Taxpayer's Dream

The press is not the only one against the Olympic Games, Mr. Mayor.

So are thousands of Chicago taxpayers who have been burdened by your inept administration, parking meter fiasco, truck hiring scandals and the continued corruption in City Hall.

Chicago taxpayers are tired of seeing their hard-earned tax money being spent on your cronies and family members.

Chicago taxpayers DO NOT need to be burdened any further with untold billions of dollars in taxes to support "your dream," Mr. Mayor.

You want to see the Olympics, fly to London for the next one.

Charles Vazquez

Chicago Sun-Times
Letter to the Editor
July 27, 2009



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[Open letter to the IOC:](#)
"Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"

sleep at night?"

At the same time, Mr. Daley and other supporters of the Games argue that the Olympics would be a force - perhaps the force - to lift Chicago from this financial gloom, with seven years of new construction, jobs and tourism.

Asked about the difficulties of lobbying for an Olympics bid during a recession, Lori Healey, the president of Chicago 2016, the bid committee here, said: "I think it makes it easy. People are hungry for jobs and opportunities."

Earlier events that placed Chicago on an international stage, Ms. Healey said, also came during periods of financial gloom: a World's Fair in 1893 and again in 1933.

To hear Ms. Healey and other bid leaders tell it, there is no downside. If the International Olympics Committee were to choose Chicago over Madrid, Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo on Oct. 2, advocates predict the Games would not only break even but would also make money (as have, they say, earlier Olympics in the United States), generate more than \$22 billion in indirect economic impact on the city and create \$1 billion in new tax revenue. Many of the sites needed for the events would not require construction because they already exist. Organizers say private financial support is mounting, with \$60 million raised so far for the bid, and no city dollars are expected to be needed for either the bid or the Games.

On that last point, however, residents of Chicago seem skeptical. They have heard promises before.

This spring, a \$1.15 billion deal to privatize the city's parking meter system turned into a fiasco after City Hall's inspector general called it a dubious financial deal and after motorists said they poured money into fancy new meters that, in turn, spat out error messages. A few years ago, Millennium Park, a downtown centerpiece, opened behind schedule and millions of dollars over budget.

"You all are projecting we're going to make a lot of money," a resident, Robin Kaufman, told Olympics planners at a neighborhood meeting, one in a series intended to shore up support. "But the bankers were projecting they were going to make a lot of money. Bernie Madoff was predicting he was going to make a lot of money."

Ms. Kaufman lifted a sign that read, "No Blank Checks."



At a high school auditorium on the West Side, where the bid leaders showed glossy Olympics schematics and stood beside toned former Olympians, Stephanie Patton asked, "Why should we trust you?"

Even without a city having been picked for the 2016 event, Chicago agreed this summer to spend \$86 million on land for an Olympics village. Bid leaders say private developers will ultimately foot the bill for a project that is to create permanent housing regardless of the Olympics.

Bid leaders say the Games themselves are expected to make \$450 million in profits. In case of a shortfall, though, a "safety net" package for the Games will include an expected \$1 billion in private insurance, according to bid leaders, as well as pledges from the State of Illinois of \$250 million and the City of Chicago of \$500 million.

Then last month, Mr. Daley indicated that he would sign a host contract required by international Olympics officials, including a standard blanket provision offering the city's backing - one that Chicago leaders had earlier said they hoped to modify.

The notion that the city could then be responsible beyond \$500 million "set off some alarm bells" for aldermen, one of them, Joe Moore, said. Mr. Moore added that the City Council was seeking more details before it signed off on it. And a group here opposed to the event, [No Games Chicago](#), said the prospect seemed to have suddenly stirred an outpouring of interest from people who had been silent on the Olympics.

"The levee broke around that issue," said a founder of the group, Bob Quellos.

What strikes some residents as particularly puzzling is the bid committee's refrain that, as a private nonprofit entity, it is separate from city government and public money. Technically, that may be, but skeptics note the committee and City Hall share goals and often seem intricately intertwined; Ms. Healey, for instance, stepped down as the mayor's chief of staff to lead the committee.

Crucial to maintaining residents' support for the Games, polls suggest, is convincing them that their dollars will not be spent. In February, a poll by The Chicago Tribune found that 64 percent of residents of Chicago and its suburbs favored having an Olympics but that 75 percent were against the use

of tax money to cover shortfalls.

At one of the community forums, a city official likened the efforts of those planning the Olympics Games to Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, who is believed to have been the first non-Indian settler of Chicago, and Daniel H. Burnham, whose 1909 Plan of Chicago largely designed the city with the long strip of lakefront parkland that defines it.

Then the bid leaders brought out their big guns for these crowds: a videotape of Barack Obama, then a candidate for president, in Chicago, his hometown, smiling and shaking hands with Mr. Daley during a rally last summer for the bid and declaring his wish that an Olympics reveal Chicago as "not just a city that works, but a city that inspires."

Patrick G. Ryan, the founder of the Aon Corporation and the chairman of the bid committee, told one crowd that the thought that private money being raised for the Games might otherwise pay for schools, garbage collection or city workers' salaries was wrong.

"To say we could spend the money either hosting the Games or on something else is really a false choice," Mr. Ryan said. "This money only comes in if we win."

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No Games Chicago Update

65 Days To Decision

Daily News

July 28, 2009



Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

We regret to inform you that Illinois, Cook County and the City of Chicago continue to be gravely in debt and operating with extremely large deficits. Our state's finances are so poor that Moody's Investors Service has placed Illinois debt under review for a possible downgrade - the second in just four months.

The People Speak

Not Taxpayer's Dream

The press is not the only one against the Olympic Games, Mr. Mayor.

So are thousands of Chicago taxpayers who have been burdened by your inept administration, parking meter fiasco, truck hiring scandals and the continued corruption in City Hall.

Chicago taxpayers are tired of seeing their hard-earned tax money being spent on your cronies and family members.

[Moody's puts Illinois bond ratings on watch for downgrade](#)

July 16, 2009

(Dow Jones) - Moody's Investors Service on Thursday put the state of Illinois's general-obligation bond ratings on review for possible downgrade, saying the state has long-term budgetary challenges.

The firm said the state has a long history of general-fund operating deficits, and liquidity in the fund has been increasingly strained, which it said was evidenced by growing use of short-term debt and delaying payments to Medicaid providers and vendors.

It also said Illinois was one of five U.S. states that started its new fiscal year July 1 with no budget in place. Gov. Pat Quinn signed a \$26 billion budget Wednesday night. Moody's said some of the proposed measures would help in the short term but be at the expense of future budget years.

The GO bonds' ratings were cut one notch to A1 in April, when Moody's cited similar reasons including

Chicago taxpayers DO NOT need to be burdened any further with untold billions of dollars in taxes to support "your dream," Mr. Mayor.

You want to see the Olympics, fly to London for the next one.

Charles Vazquez

Chicago Sun-Times
Letter to the Editor
July 27, 2009

"narrow operating fund liquidity."

Other ratings that will be on watch for downgrade include Build Illinois Bonds, dedicated state tax revenue bonds, and others.

The ratings agency said its review will focus on the state's prospects for restoring balanced financial operations while addressing "sizable funding requirements" for pensions and retiree health benefits, as well as liquidity and its growing debt burden. Moody's said increasing evidence of strained liquidity, growing structural imbalance, further deterioration of fund balances and other factors could cause a downgrade on the ratings.

[City of Chicago layoffs looming Deadline passes for 2 holdout unions](#)

July 15, 2009

BY FRAN SPIELMAN Sun-Times City Hall Reporter

Despite a last-minute bargaining session early Wednesday, two hold-out unions refused to agree to Mayor Daley's demand for cost-cutting concessions, paving the way for 431 members of Teamsters 726 and AFSCME Council 31 to lose their jobs.

"I feel terrible for workers losing their jobs and their families. This is something they'll have to face tomorrow morning," Daley told a City Hall news conference.

"I did not want to lay anyone off. It could have been all avoided... .Until the deadline at midnight [Tuesday]. we held out hope that an agreement could be reached. That did not happen. So, we're forced to take this very sad and unwelcome step."

As recently as Wednesday morning, top mayoral aides talked with AFSCME and made it clear the city remained open to an agreement that matched the terms accepted by 25 of the city's 27 unions.

The two-year deal calls for their members to take 24 unpaid furlough days through June 30, 2011, substitute comp time for cash overtime and convert all city holidays - nine-a-year for hourly employees and 12 for those with monthly salaries - to unpaid days.

"Everybody has to be in the boat together. You can't leave people out," the mayor said. Tom Clair, secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Local 726, said he it pains him to



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[Open letter to the IOC:](#)
"Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"



know that Wednesday is the last day on the job for 141 of his members - most of them truck drivers in the Departments of Streets and Sanitation, Transportation, Water Management and Aviation.

But, Clair said snow plow drivers routinely called out in the middle of the night were simply not willing to trade cash overtime for comp time.

"During the winter program, our people work snow. They also work out on the runways at O'Hare [Airport]. They felt it was too big a hit on the comp time. That accounts for \$15,000-to-\$30,000 more a year. They weren't willing to give that up," Clair said.

Clair predicted that Chicagoans would feel the impact of the layoffs in basic housekeeping services like garbage pick-ups, tree-trimming and repairs of water main breaks.

"There's gonna be problems....There's already a shortage of drivers in different departments - particularly Streets and San," he said.

Deputy Budget Director Andrea Gibson countered that the 141 laid off Teamsters represent a "small component" of the union's 2,000-member workforce.

"We have specific plans in place with each department to make sure we don't have much of a service impact at all. We're gonna schedule and manage our shipments very carefully. We're going to change some crew configurations to minimize our reliance on the Teamsters," she said.

AFSCME issued a prepared statement, saying its members rejected the mayor's demand for "what amounts to a 10 percent" pay cut by a 4-to-1 margin.

"We regret that Mayor Daley today will choose to lay off city workers and reduce city services rather than agree to our reasonable alternative," the union said.

"The mayor's decision will cause great hardship for these workers and their families and will further reduce city services...especially in the Police Department, the libraries and the health clinics."

The 290 AFSCME layoffs are spread across 30 city departments. But, nearly half will come at Chicago Public Libraries at a time when library usage is up 30 percent because of the prolonged recession.

"You may not see your books back on the shelf as quickly as you're used to seeing them. If you place a book on hold, you may not get it as quickly because it's moving through the system more slowly. Everybody else will be working

that much harder," said Library Commissioner Mary Dempsey.

Daley initially threatened to lay off 1,504 employees across 28 departments if organized labor did not agree to cost-cutting concessions that would save the city \$34 million by Dec. 31 and \$76 million annually.

Email Marketing by





No Games Chicago Update

64 Days To Decision

Daily News

July 29, 2009



Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

It's August in Chicago and it's getting hot.

Our citizens are hot and angry about the state of our city's finances and the lies that are being told to us by our Mayor and City Council.

Today over 100 people, including mothers with their toddlers in strollers, marched at City Hall to protest the privatization of our city's parking meters and the waste of funds on the 2016 Olympics.

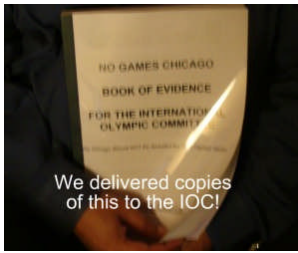
The People Speak

No one I know wants the Olympics in Chicago. The opportunities for abuse and corruption are endless and will only cost the taxpayers huge amounts of money which will be paid to Daley's cronies.

Peter Britt

Signer of No Games
online petition





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[Open letter to the IOC:](#)
"Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"



As reported online at [The Expired Meter](#):

Echoing throughout the canyon of buildings along either side of LaSalle St., where the chants of "No more meters!", and "Parking meters no, Chicago yes!" around lunch time today, when protesters marched in front of the entrance to City Hall.

Armed with signs and banners, and wearing hand decorated T-shirts with anti-meter messages, the 80-100 people protesting meter privatization and rates hikes, marched in front of the LaSalle entrance to City Hall for about an hour.

The protest was organized by three groups, including the People's Parking Meter Campaign an offshoot of [ANSWER Chicago](#), South Chicago's [Centro Comunitario Juan Diego](#) (CCJD) and anti-Olympics group, [No Games Chicago](#).

"It's a great turnout," said Tom Tresser the head of No Games Chicago, who believes potential 2016 Olympic games in Chicago, is similar to the parking meter lease deal. "We're all in this together. It's all privatization. Chicago would be turning over tax dollars and property to a Swiss corporation," explained Tresser of the possibility of the Olympics coming here.

The signs and banners carried a myriad of messages, but all essentially focusing on the meter lease deal. The signs blared such

things as "No More Parking Meters," " Better Schools-No Olympic Games", "Stop Parking Meter Rate Hikes," and "No Mas Parquimetros.

"It's a good turnout," said Robert Garcia from CCJD. "We could have had more people. We wanted to bring another bus load (of people)."

During the course of the protest, cars and taxis driving by, would periodically honk their horns excitedly showing support for the crowd, which in turn made the crowd of protesters cheer in reply.

"That's been happening the entire morning," said Garcia turning his head toward the honking drivers and gesturing at the curious pedestrians stopping to get information fliers. "People are realizing we can fight back. People think the parking meter contract is done and can't do anything about it. But by people speaking out we can make a difference."

Other bystanders didn't understand why all the fuss. "It's seems ridiculous to me," said a bystander watching the action. "I'm in total agreement, that the parking meter privatization is an outrage. It's an annoyance, but it (this issue) doesn't seem to deserve the focus of attention right now with everything else going on in the world."

Asked if he thought the City Council members, in full session today for the month of July, heard their chants, Garcia said, "I hope so. I know they knew we were out here. Whether they react is a different story."

Currently, according to Garcia, there are no hard dates for a future protest, but believes there will be more similar protests soon.



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No Games Chicago Update

63 Days To Decision

Daily News

July 30, 2009



Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

Today we'd like to let you know about our mass transit system, called the CTA, which stands for the Chicago Transit Authority. These are the trains and buses we ride here every day. Since no new rail line or new mode of service is being proposed for the 2016 games, this is what your athletes, officials and visitors will rely on to get around if the games come here. And, like everything else here, this service is under funded, badly in need of repairs and constantly facing cuts in service.

The People Speak

Chicago needs to focus on more important items; such as better schools and streets!

Vanessa Ruiz
Chicago

Signer of No Games online petition

[CTA finds budget trims to avoid service cuts](#)

By Jon Hilkevitch - Chicago Tribune
July 16, 2009

The Chicago Transit Authority came up with about \$35 million in cost savings Wednesday to erase its latest budget deficit despite recent claims there was nothing left to cut except bus and train service.

The newest round of belt-tightening, the result of reductions in non-union labor expenses and other cost-containment measures, bodes well for CTA customers trying to ride out the recession.

Possible service cuts threatened for as early as the fall are now off the table for the rest of the year unless the weak economy gets worse and transit ridership numbers and public-subsidy dollars tank too, officials indicated.

But service cuts and fare increases cannot be ruled out in 2010, CTA President Richard Rodriguez said.

Only last month, Rodriguez warned that the CTA had cut administrative and other expenses to the bone. Severe service cuts were unavoidable in the face of a \$155



"Countdown To Agony" (CTA) refers to the regular announcements of drastic service cuts throughout Chicago's mass transit system.



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[Open letter to the IOC: "Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"](#)

million decrease in public subsidies from the Regional Transportation Authority, he said. The latest budget cut Wednesday was due to declining tax collections caused by the recession.

The transit agency's board on Wednesday voted to reduce spending in this year's operating budget by \$35.2 million. Some of the savings will be realized by reducing overtime pay and non-essential travel. Salary increases will be deferred for the CTA's approximately 1,000 non-union employees

Chairman of Chicago's CTA Admits \$7 Billion in Unfunded Repairs

CTA Chairman Carole L. Brown gave a speech to the APTA Rail Conference in Chicago on June 15, 2009. In it she revealed an alarming backlog of repair work for our mass transit system.

"We still have an almost \$7 BILLION - yes, 7 BILLION DOLLAR 0 unfunded state of good repair need."

[Read her full remarks here.](#)

Mass Transit Systems Have a Hard Time Paying the Bills

The good news, ridership is up; the bad news, ridership is up

By Alex Kingsbury , Bret Schulte, U.S. News & World Report - March 27, 2008

Strong-arming recalcitrant aldermen, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley recently framed the debate this way: Either support a property tax increase to fund the city's cash-strapped transportation authority or "stand up and say, 'I want the CTA to bypass my ward.'" Minutes later, the 40 percent tax increase on city property buyers passed overwhelmingly, 41 to 6. If only it were that easy in every burg where the aging rail lines keep rotting, the fares keep rising, and the trains have to keep rolling.

[Read the rest of the story.](#)

Email Marketing by





No Games Chicago Update *62 Days To Decision* *Daily News*

July 31, 2009



Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

Chicago's finances are not healthy.

We are broke and getting broker.

Today's update is from NBC Chicago's online service. The citizens here know all this and they are increasingly turning against the 2016 bid because they see the connection between the city's inability to run itself properly and the amount of money required to successfully stage the games.

The People Speak

Let's celebrate and publicize the superb theater town that Chicago already is and promises to be in the future. With "Billy Elliot" opening in March, 2010, what better hook do we have to challenge people to come see and hear the future acting stars like Deanna Dunnigan, Amy Morton, William Petersen and John Mahoney?
Two small Chicago-based transfers ("A Steady Rain" and "Superior



[City Budget Bomb: It's Gonna Get Worse - But there's a two-click solution](#)

By STEVE RHODES - Fri, Jul 31, 2009

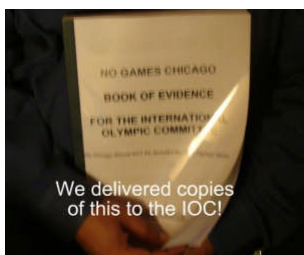
The bad news is that next year's city budget is projecting to be even worse than it's been this year. Mayor Richard M. Daley 's administration Thursday predicted a gaping hole in next year's budget that will eclipse the current financial problems - even after the city exhausts its brand-new \$320 million rainy day fund, the Chicago Tribune reports.

The anticipated \$6.2 billion budget for next year could

Donuts") are opening on Broadway this fall. Why wait? Come to Chicago now for great entertainment of all kinds.

Cornelia Miller
Chicago

Signer of No Games online petition



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[Open letter to the IOC: "Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"](#)

be more than half a billion dollars in the red because of plummeting tax collections and rising wages that account for more than 80 percent of the city's day-to-day spending, said Chief Financial Officer Gene Saffold. He announced the gloomy prediction as Daley aides began briefing aldermen in anticipation of public hearings next month.

The good news is that a simple solution is at hand: \$1 billion in unspent TIF funds.

Whet Moser notes the potential TIF rescue plan in "How To Fix A Looming City Budget Apocalypse In Two Easy Clicks."

Moser points to a Progress Illinois post that notes "It seems ridiculous to be redirecting so much money away from the general tax base at the same time that revenues are sharply declining." Progress Illinois has "indeed, with a little creative thinking and flexibility on the part of city officials, there are several adjustments to the TIF system that could provide some relief for cash-starved taxing bodies in Chicago."

The Daley administration is unlikely to want anything to do with that - now or in the future. It's [planning to use TIF funds for the Olympic Village](#), for example. Maybe not getting the Olympics would be the best thing for the city budget.

And speaking of redirecting money, maybe all that private cash raised by Chicago 2016 could fit into the equation if the bid doesn't come our way. Another revenue source: the money that could be saved by cleaning up City Hall.

"Hundreds of millions of dollars of waste," [University of Chicago at Illinois professor Dick Simpson](#) said in the spring when he issued a report on the state's "corruption tax."

So there you have it, budget solved.

It may take three steps instead of two, but it'll be worth it.

Steve Rhodes is the proprietor of [The Beachwood Reporter](#), a Chicago-centric news and culture review.



Neighbors from Chicago's South Side gather at the University of Chicago President's mansion to protest the closing of a community health clinic. They see the connection between the city's deteriorating finances and the Olympic bid.

Email Marketing by





No Games Chicago Update *61 Days To Decision* *Daily News*

August 1, 2009



Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

We continue to update you on the state of Chicago's finances. Like most of America, we are running extremely large deficits and have no sensible solution in sight to balance our budget. As life on the ground for our citizens gets worse, people are demanding accountability and new priorities from our city government.

The People Speak

I am vehemently opposed to the 2016 Olympics in Chicago. Previous Olympic events have demonstrated that, quite often, there are huge cost overruns that taxpayers have had to bear. I don't believe that the economic benefits (jobs, increased tourism), will offset these cost overruns. Chicagoans already know we have a world-class city. We don't need an Olympics (which most people won't



\$519M BUDGET GAP IN '10 | Meter money tapped out: tax hikes, stiff service cuts could be next



[Tax increases, spending cuts or layoffs possible to fill city's \\$520M budget gap](#)

July 30, 2009 - FRAN SPIELMAN City Hall Reporter

Even after wringing concessions from organized labor and drying up a "rainy day" fund created by privatizing parking meters, Chicago has a \$519.7 million budget shortfall in 2010 that can only be filled with tax increases and spending cuts.

"There are no obvious sources of revenue that have not already been tapped," said Civic Federation President Laurence Msall.

"You have to make very severe and structural cuts in the city's operating budget. City government is going to be

be able to afford to attend), to prove we are a world-class city.

Shane Bichl
Chicago

Signer of No Games
online petition



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[Open letter to the IOC: "Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"](#)

forced to re-invent itself in the way it delivers services and eliminates services not critical. ... Police and fire have to be part of it."

The shortfall in the city's \$6.2 billion preliminary 2010 budget is the highest in recent memory -- even after Mayor Daley ordered 431 layoffs from two recalcitrant unions and cut a two-year deal with organized labor that averted the need for nearly 1,100 other firings.

The gaping budget gap caused by declining revenues would have been bigger without the "rainy day fund" created with proceeds from the 75-year, \$1.15 billion lease that privatized Chicago parking meters. The preliminary budget assumes that \$268.7 million of that money will be used to wipe out this year's budget shortfall and that the remaining \$51.3 million will be exhausted in 2010.

The outlook for taxpayers is bleak. They'll either face higher taxes, dramatically reduced services or both. Chief Financial Officer Gene Saffold said nothing is ruled out. But, the mayor has instructed his staff to avoid a property tax increase at all costs.

"We understand people are hurting out there. ... The last thing we want to do ... is to further burden the citizens of Chicago. That's why that is a last resort -- the last thing that we'll turn to," he said.

The sky-high budget gap comes as the city has asked an independent arbitrator to dictate a new contract with Chicago Police officers after more than two years of nowhere bargaining.

Fraternal Order of Police President Mark Donahue accused the city of crying poor-mouth with a purpose.

"Traditionally, initial budget shortfalls are inflated. ... It wouldn't surprise me that these inflated numbers are being established to sway an arbitration decision," Donahue said.

Ald. Tom Allen (38th) added, "People are getting tired of hearing that the sky is falling. There are some signs already that the economy is leveling off." Saffold countered, "These are real numbers. ... There's no smoke and mirrors here."

If Daley's numbers turn out to be solid, it could jeopardize the city's ability to fill 509 police vacancies and to replace as many as 874 additional officers over the next four years who could be lured into retirement by the city's offer to extend health benefits at age 55 to officers and their dependents.

That's especially true now that Chicago has received only enough federal stimulus funds to hire 50 officers, down from the 400 officers the city had hoped to hire.

Donahue acknowledged that he is concerned about a continued slowdown in police hiring.

But, he said, "They recognize the savings between the salaries of potential retirees and new hires. And they assured us their intent was to fill those vacancies."

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No Games Chicago Update *60 Days To Decision* *Daily News*

August 2, 2009

The People Speak

Chicago needs to focus on more important items; such as better schools and streets!
NO 2016 GAMES!!!

Mrs. Vanessa Ruiz
Chicago

Signer of No Games
online petition

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

[Alderman Manny Flores](#) of Chicago's 1st Ward has introduced a law in City Council tht would limit Chicago's taxpayers to a total exposure of \$500 million for the 2016 Olympics. [Download a copy of the ordinance.](#)



Alderman Flores [published this letter in today's Chicago Tribune](#):

No free check for the 2016 Summer Games

By Manny Flores - August 2, 2009

We will soon learn if Chicago receives the honor of hosting the 2016 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. Winning the Games will be a testament to our city's vitality and global leadership, and will offer an unparalleled opportunity for economic stimulus and community development. But these benefits will only be realized if we host a Games that respects community needs, is fully transparent in its contracting and hiring and is accountable to the citizens who will live with the Games' infrastructure and financial legacy for coming decades.





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[Open letter to the IOC: "Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"](#)

Unfortunately, we're not there yet.

At this late date, Chicago taxpayers have yet to receive information that is key to securing citywide support for the Games -- a full accounting of Chicago 2016's donors and expenditures, a plan that ensures an open and fair contracting process, detailed information about an insurance policy to protect Chicago taxpayers from cost overruns, and an independent third-party analysis of the proposed Olympics budget.

This information already exists. The technology to make it easily accessible also exists. And with only two months remaining before the host city is announced, it is time for the 2016 Committee to provide a greater degree of transparency and accountability by adopting these five principles:

1. Authorize an independent oversight committee that will have regular access to financial statements and contracts. This committee should be composed of respected civic, business and law enforcement officials who have no financial ties to City Hall or the 2016 committee, and should be staffed by an independent compliance office that can regularly monitor the Games' finances and practices.
2. Implement a process for contract bidding that allows citizens to easily learn who is being awarded contracts, how much each is worth, and what work is being done. This should include a full listing of contractors and subcontractors, and should be completed before any contracts are awarded.
3. Publish financial disclosure and conflict of interest forms for Olympic committee members -- just as all elected officials do -- by Sept. 15.
4. Publish all committee and public expenditures related to the Games onto an open and searchable database on a quarterly basis.
5. Disclose funding commitments to cover the Games' expenses and outline protections that will be in place to limit the liability for Chicago taxpayers, including the proposed insurance policy to cover cost-overruns. This information should be made available immediately.

I have introduced legislation to cap the city's financial commitment for the Games at the \$500 million that was authorized by the City Council in 2007. It has been said that if my legislation passes, we will not be able to sign the host city financial guarantee contract required by the International Olympic Committee -- effectively killing our chances at being named the host city.

I don't want to that to happen, but the 2016 committee and City Hall have a responsibility to protect Chicago taxpayers. The five points I outlined would be a significant step forward in providing the protections we need to support a city guarantee.

Only with an open process can we be guaranteed that the needs of communities are met and that taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly. Now is the time for Chicago to set the highest standard for transparent and accountable leadership. Let's not squander the opportunity.

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No Games Chicago Update

59 Days To Decision

Daily News

August 3, 2009

The People Speak

I've read the proposals, been to some ward meetings and as a lifelong resident of Chicago and suburbs I have little trust, faith and/or confidence in what the mayor or alderman say. I have even less than that in Olympic Committee.

Mr. Larry Rivkin
Wheeling

Signer of No Games
online petition

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

Chicago is a very pro-labor city. Wal-Mart would like to expand in Chicago and many labor unions and their allies in the City Council oppose this. Despite heavy lobbying from Wal-Mart the matter was recently heard and tabled at a City Council meeting.

Why is this relevant to the Olympic bid? Because showing you that there is no labor unrest here is part of Chicago's attempt to win the 2016 games.

But you should know that this issue is a very important one to local unions - who DO NOT want Wal-Mart to build more stores here. You will see MAJOR labor unrest in Chicago over this issue.

[Chicago aldermen sidestep Wal-Mart decision Plan to allow a 2nd store in city sent to committee](#)

By Dan Mihalopoulos - Chicago Tribune
- July 30, 2009



Caught in a high-pressure standoff between the world's biggest retailer and powerful labor unions, the Chicago



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[Open letter to the IOC: "Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"](#)

City Council blinked Wednesday and postponed a decision on whether to allow Wal-Mart to build only its second store in the city.

The delay amounted to another defeat for Wal-Mart and its supporters, who have waged a months-long public relations campaign aimed at winning enough council support to get a South Side store built this year.

Instead, aldermen voted to send the proposal to the council's Finance Committee for a hearing. Ald. Howard Brookins, who has argued for years for a store at 83rd Street and Stewart Avenue in his 21st Ward, said the parliamentary maneuvering meant construction could not begin this year.

Wal-Mart officials and labor leaders who oppose the non-union company's efforts to expand in the city both claimed they would have won if the issue had come up for a vote Wednesday.

But many aldermen have been reluctant to take a stand, in part because Mayor Richard Daley, who has repeatedly voiced support for Wal-Mart's plans, has declined to settle the issue on his own.

The mayor, who has angered labor leaders recently by forcing city workers to accept contract concessions, has criticized the unions for their Wal-Mart stance but declined to exert his near-total control over City Hall. The Wal-Mart plan could go forward with approval from the mayor's top planning official, but Daley has declined to allow it.

Chicago Federation of Labor leader Dennis Gannon said he met with Daley aide John Dunn on Tuesday and was assured that "the mayor does not want to get involved" as Wal-Mart and the unions vie to sway aldermen.

The latest flare-up over Wal-Mart comes as Daley nears the Oct. 2 meeting when the International Olympic Committee will make a decision on whether Chicago hosts the 2016 Summer Olympics. The city is one of four finalists for the Games.

Many aldermen are even more hesitant than Daley to do more than offer their opinions on the Wal-Mart controversy. In the last council election in 2007, unions heavily -- and often successfully -- funded challengers to aldermen who did not side with them against Wal-Mart.

On Wednesday, hundreds of Wal-Mart supporters flocked to City Hall on buses paid for by the company. Helping organize the demonstration was Rev. Leon Finney, a top Daley ally in the African-American community. Finney also rallied support last year for the Chicago Children's Museum

plan for Grant Park, which the mayor backed.

"Mayor Daley has made clear that Wal-Mart is a good corporate citizen," said company spokesman John Bisio. "People need jobs and the city needs tax revenue."

In 2004, when the controversy first surfaced, the Chicago City Council approved the first Wal-Mart store in the city on the West Side. At the same time, aldermen blocked the company's proposal for the South Side site.

Tribune reporters Dan P. Blake and Sandra M. Jones contributed to this report.

Email Marketing by





No Games Chicago Update

58 Days To Decision

Daily News

August 4, 2009

The People Speak

What happens in all Olympic host cities: Real estate developers organize and drive the Olympic bid; a litany of promises--all later broken--are made to garner public support. When the bid is won, costs escalate wildly out of control. The cost of the London 2012 Summer Games is already \$12 billion (4x the original estimate)! Chicagoans are tired of being ATMs to fund the Mayor's special projects while basic infrastructure and education get the shaft.

Linda Dausch
Chicago

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

One of the mail points in our case against Chicago hosting the 2016 Olympics is that the city is terribly corrupt. Decisions about city policies and city projects are made not to ensure the highest quality but to ensure the highest profits and favors for the Mayor's friends and colleagues.

It seems that everything in this city is for sale or subject to influence peddling. Now we learn that our public schools are being investigated by federal law enforcement officials for corruption.

[Federal investigation targets Chicago Public Schools Subpoena comes on heels of internal investigation of admissions practices at magnet, gifted and selective centers](#)

By Stephanie Banchemo and Azam Ahmed
Chicago Tribune Reporters - August 2, 2009

Federal authorities have launched an investigation into the admissions practices at Chicago's selective enrollment schools, the Chicago Tribune has learned.

Federal officials recently served a grand jury subpoena on Chicago Public Schools seeking information about the admissions process, sources said. Chicago Board of Education President Michael Scott confirmed Saturday that the district recently received a federal subpoena, but declined to elaborate because of the investigation.

The federal investigation comes as Chicago school officials launched an internal probe of admissions practices at highly competitive selective enrollment schools after finding irregularities at some schools.

Signer of No Games online petition



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[Open letter to the IOC: "Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"](#)

The district's law department noticed problems with the high school admissions process two months ago, school sources said. Last month, schools chief Ron Huberman announced the start of an internal probe of all 52 application-based elementary and high schools, citing an unspecified problem at one high school.

The announcement came a week after the Tribune began making inquiries into the admissions process. After the Tribune wrote about the federal probe Saturday, Mayor Richard Daley spoke out against any use of unfair influence in the admissions process, but said he has no idea if clout actually factored into enrollment decisions.

Daley said he is confident that Huberman is effectively investigating any problems. "No one should use money or clout or influence to get their child into any school," the mayor said at a news conference on an unrelated event on the South Side.

The U.S. attorney's office declined to comment.

The subpoena to the Chicago school system comes against a backdrop of a federal investigation into admission practices at Illinois universities.

Federal prosecutors subpoenaed three state universities, including the University of Illinois, seeking any evidence that former Gov. Rod Blagojevich and his power brokers gave applicants an unfair edge. The federal probe came after a Tribune investigation uncovered that U. of I. gave special treatment to applicants with powerful patrons such as lawmakers, donors and trustees.

Competition to get into the city's premier selective enrollment schools is fierce. Thousands of students apply for hundreds of openings at the schools considered the crown jewels of the city's public school system.

Entry into the magnet schools is supposed to be through randomized lottery. Admission to selective enrollment high schools and gifted elementary centers is supposedly based on merit.

The district has long allowed magnet school principals to handpick up to 5 percent of their students. Last year, they extended that right to principals at the nine selective enrollment high schools, even though some principals acknowledged they were already doing it. The principals can consider only extenuating circumstances such as a special talent or family crisis, not the applicants' political ties.

But whispers have long swirled that some students get spots in these top-flight schools not by chance or merit,

but by whom their parents know or how much money they make.

The principal selection practice has generated much of the controversy, as many parents argue that unqualified applicants are getting in.

Email Marketing by





No Games Chicago Update

57 Days To Decision

Daily News

August 5, 2009

The People Speak

We do not want the 2016 Olympics in Chicago or the Chicago area. This is a corrupt city led by a corrupt mayor who is getting all of us in financial difficulties. We cannot handle our own financial or parking or murder problems now. The Olympics here will be a disaster for everybody.

Seymour Lazar
Buffalo Grove

Signer of No Games
online petition

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

One of the mail points in our case against Chicago hosting the 2016 Olympics is that the city is terribly corrupt. Decisions about city policies and city projects are made not to ensure the highest quality but to ensure the highest profits and favors for the Mayor's friends and colleagues.

It seems that everything in this city is for sale or subject to influence peddling. Now we learn that our public schools are being investigated by federal law enforcement officials for corruption.

This is a new scandal and is making news daily here. Michael Scott, the President of the Chicago Board of Education has been subpoenaed to appear before a federal grand jury. **Mr. Scott is the chairman of the outreach committee for Chicago 2016.**

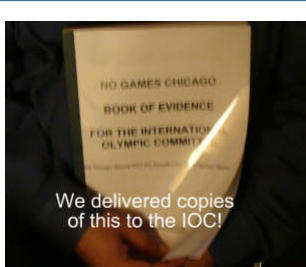


[CPS president subpoenaed SCHOOL CLOUT PROBE](#) **[Scott surprised, looks forward to testifying](#)**

August 5, 2009

BY FRAN SPELMAN City Hall Reporter

Chicago Board of Education President Michael Scott disclosed Tuesday that he has been subpoenaed to testify before a federal grand jury investigating how students are chosen for admission to some of the city's



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[Open letter to the IOC: "Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"](#)

most elite public schools.

Scott said he was surprised by the subpoena and flatly denied that he has ever flexed his political muscle -- during two stints as board president -- to clout any student into a "selective enrollment" school.

"I followed all the procedures," Scott said.

Asked whether he has ever made a call on behalf of someone else, Scott said, "Nope. Never."

Scott said the Board of Education launched its internal investigation of the admissions process before the federal grand jury issued separate subpoenas for school records and Scott's testimony.

Asked whether he had ever heard of a call being placed to get a student clouted in, he said, "That's a different question. You asked me if I made a call. No comment. It's an ongoing investigation."

Pressed on why the federal government would target him for grand jury testimony, Scott said, "I don't know. I keep telling you. I have no idea. But, I look forward to it. I can tell you that. "I'm telling you there's a process in place that I have absolute confidence in and I look forward to answering any questions about it. . . . People should have confidence in the system," he said.

Scott made his comments after joining Mayor Daley at Robeson High School, 6935 S. Normal, to launch the annual back-to-school campaign.

The Chicago Sun-Times began reporting on problems in admissions to elite CPS schools 18 months ago, disclosing that parents tried to clout their kids into one lottery magnet school, some with the help of a school clerk. The parents falsely claimed they had a child already enrolled in the elementary school.

And in February, the Sun-Times reported that the first year of allowing the principals of CPS' selective-enrollment college prep schools to handpick five percent of their students was a rocky one.

During the news conference, Schools CEO Ron Huberman refused to be pinned down on the timeline of the internal and federal investigations. He would only say that the internal inquiry dates back "several months."

"CPS detected an anomaly as part of the normal course of business at a particular school. . . . We then decided to launch an investigation. . . . We also wanted to bring in an independent auditing firm [to review] the process," Huberman said.

Daley said the investigation demonstrates the need for more magnet schools across the city.

"More and more people want to stay in Chicago. More and more people want to get into better schools," the mayor said.

One key target of the Board of Education's internal probe is the sweeping power that allows principals to hand-pick five percent of all students at nine college prep high schools that admit students based on tests and grades and at the dozens of magnet schools that admit by lottery.

The Sun-Times reported in the February that 16 percent of the 129 students chosen by principals at seven of the prep schools did not pass initial law department scrutiny. Some principals picked kids who did not take the required admissions test or had not even filled out an application.

The federal and CPS investigations come against the backdrop of the clout admissions scandal at the University of Illinois.

Scott served as school board president from 2001 to 2006, only to return in February after his longtime friend Rufus Williams was forced out by City Hall. Scott is a trusted Daley lieutenant with a 30-year history with the mayor. He has served as cable administrator, a park board president, RTA and McPier board member and chairman of the outreach committee for Chicago 2016.

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No Games Chicago Update

56 Days To Decision

Daily News

August 6, 2009

The People Speak

It's sad that our city chooses to throw away money on an event that will just worsen our economic dilemma rather than use it wisely and effectively on improving the situation and improving the city and its systems (Education system, health care, city workers, etc). Wake up, Daley.

Sean Chang
Chicago

Signer of No Games
online petition

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

The 2016 Committee is under fire from all sides.

[The local press which is now covering their mis-statements on the funding of the Olympic Village](#) and from citizens who are demanding answers at the community meetings the 2016 Committee has staged around the city.

[StreetWise](#) is a weekly news magazine sold by Chicago's homeless. It covers community issues and stories of social justice in the city. The current issue covers community reaction to the bid.

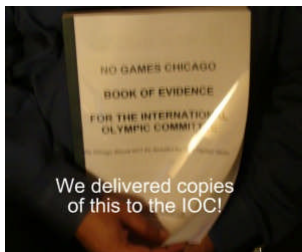


FROM THE STREETS: CHICAGO 2016 HARD SELL

Shea Gibbs, StreetWise Contributor

At a recent neighborhood meeting of South Shore residents, there was vocal opposition to the proposed 2016 Summer Olympics. It's not that residents don't want the games to come to Chicago-they just want to make sure the Olympics benefit their neighborhood.

"Where's our guarantee?" asked Douglas Brown, an area man who was among more than 100 individuals who



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[Open letter to the IOC: "Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"](#)

attended the July 15 meeting at the South Shore Cultural Center. It offered residents of the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th wards a chance to come out and respond to a presentation given by Chicago 2016, a nonprofit launched to attract the Olympics to the Windy City. Chicago's currently in the running with Tokyo, Rio de Janeiro, and Madrid to host the 2016 summer games; the host city will be voted on and decided by the International Olympic Committee on October 2.

According to Chicago 2016, hosting the games would be a boon to the infrastructure-not to mention the coffers-of Chicago, and residents have nothing to worry about, particularly when it comes to displacement of renters and home owners.

Chicago 2016 supporters point to the international spotlight - a worldwide viewing audience of four billion - that Chicago would gain from hosting the Games. "It's my hope that 2009 will be the beginning of a new era for Chicago-one of renewed civic pride, expanded sport programs for youth, an elevated international profile and a stronger economic foundation;" Pat Ryan. local insurance magnate and Chicago 2016 Chairman and CEO of the nonprofit says on the Chicago 2016 Web site. Supporters say also that the Olympic and Paralympic Games will create the equivalent of 315,000 full time jobs for one year, over half of which would be in Chicago, at over \$7 billion in wages. Economic development over 11 years would amount to \$22.5 billion. The proposed site of the Olympic athletes village would become mixed income housing and retail with up to 30 percent affordable housing.

"You should expect that Chicago 2016 will ... stage an outstanding Olympic Games that will make our city very proud ...[We will] manage the games efficiently and within our budget [and] ensure that the benefits from hosting the games will be shared by the entire city," Ryan said.

But some groups aren't about to take Chicago 2016 at its word. The Kenwood Oakland Community Organization offered a similar view to that of Brown and other attendees of the recent meeting: according to a group spokesperson, the organization would support the Olympics coming to Chicago only if it receives "a legally binding community benefits agreement."

Others at the meeting wondered if they could trust the city of Chicago to keep their best interests in mind given the municipal government's track record. The Chicago 2016 committee repeatedly stressed that it's not a government entity but rather a group of volunteers. However, the "guarantee" referenced by Brown refers to

a sum of money Chicago must commit to providing should private funding fall through, or if its hosting duties run significantly over budget.

Another opposition group, [No Games](#), says the one thing that's guaranteed is that the city will be required at some point to pony up those funds. According to community coordinator and No Games spokesman Tom Tresser, no city has earned any profits from hosting the Olympics in the modern era, and the only real beneficiaries of hosting duties will be the games' corporate sponsors. Chicago already is in the red,"Tresser said. "Our city is falling apart."

No Games contends there will be at least three direct negative effects if Chicago hosts the 2016 Summer Olympics: the city will be forced to pay money it doesn't have, residents will be displaced from their homes, and parklands will be damaged. Tresser also said he believes the city will attempt to clear its streets of people it deems undesirable.

"It's like a mini police state," he said. "Young men of color will be swept off the streets."

At any rate, the next significant date for the bid to host the 2016 summer games is something everyone can agree on. On October 2 the IOC will vote to determine which of the remaining contender cities gets to host the games; between now and then, Chicago 2016 will attempt to convince Chicago residents that the games will be profitable and that the exposure the city receives will be positive and attract tourists in the future.

"We believe we can truly change the city and become world-class," said Chicago 2016 president Lori Healey. "We need your support. We need the support of the people of Chicago in order to win."

No Games will carry the opposite message to the people of Chicago as well as the voting members of the IOC. The group shadowed the IOC in protest as it toured Chicago in April, and it distributed information to dissuade the committee from voting for Chicago at a recent meeting to discuss the four finalists in Switzerland.

Meanwhile, at the July 15 meeting, a woman who didn't identify herself as a member of No Games repeated a mantra that's become associated with the group: "No blank check." The phrase refers to the guarantee required of the city of Chicago in order for it to continue with its bid for the 2016 summer games. After rolling out a poster board emblazoned with the slogan, she attempted to rouse the crowd into chanting it along with her.



No Games Chicago Update

55 Days To Decision

Daily News

August 7, 2009

The People Speak

Giving Chicago 2016 is the worst idea ever- this will ruin the Olympics and goes against everything the Olympics are supposed to stand for!

Dan Pellant
Chicago

Signer of No Games
online petition

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

Michael Scott, the President of the Chicago Board of Education and the leader of the 2016 Committee's Community Outreach program is in the news again today.

The citizens of Chicago follow these news reports closely. Look to see protests and calls for Mr. Scott to resign his official positions.

TRIBUNE WATCHDOG

Chicago 2016 Olympics: Member of city's bid team has deal to develop land near park earmarked for the Games

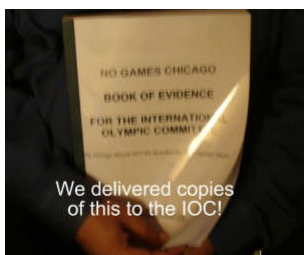
Michael Scott, the city school board president, says he has done nothing improper

By Todd Lighty, David Heinzmann and Kathy Bergen - ChicagoTribune reporters - August 7, 2009

A member of Mayor Richard Daley's team working to bring the Olympics to Chicago has quietly arranged to develop city-owned land near a park that would be transformed for the 2016 Summer Games, potentially positioning himself to cash in if the Games come here, a Tribune investigation has found.

Developer Michael Scott Sr., an early member of the mayor's Olympic committee, leads a group planning a residential and commercial project on lots kitty-corner from the proposed Douglas Park sporting venues, a location where land values could jump if the city gets the Olympics.





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[Open letter to the IOC: "Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"](#)

The plan -- which would include a Nike store -- already has gotten crucial support from the local alderman, who has set aside the lots for Scott and his group.

The city generally sells taxpayer-owned lots for \$1 apiece for affordable housing projects, and in other cases negotiates land prices.

Scott owns Michael Scott & Associates, a real estate development and investment firm. He also serves as president of the Chicago Board of Education, and was in the news earlier this week when he said he was subpoenaed to testify before a federal grand jury looking into admissions to the city's elite public schools.

Scott's designs on the public land are sure to reinforce concerns of residents that it's the mayor's friends who would benefit from Daley bringing the 2016 Olympics to the city. The story is a familiar one in Daley's administration, where City Hall insiders have personally profited from even the most civic-minded of projects, from recycling garbage to building Millennium Park.

The development team includes six West Side ministers, some of whom are politically connected.

Scott, who acknowledged plans to develop the lots around Douglas Park, said he has done nothing improper and defended his roles as a member of Daley's Olympic committee, school board president and developer.

"I've had an interest in Douglas Park long before the Olympics came and will probably have an interest long after we get them or not," Scott said. "That's where I was raised, that's what I know, so if that's something that's punishable, I can't tell you that."

Scott got his start in politics as a housing activist in the West Side's Lawndale neighborhood, where he was born and raised. He has served under several mayors, including Harold Washington and Daley.

He was criticized in 1990 for his insider connections when he left his job as city government's chief cable administrator to go work for a cable company.

Earlier this year, Scott's roles as school board president and as a member of the city's Olympic committee stirred controversy.

In May, he asked all of the city's school principals to form plans to promote the Olympics. Teachers and union officials said Scott's tactics were heavy-handed and they feared retaliation if they did not support Daley's quest for the Games.

Daley first floated his vision of bringing the Olympics to Chicago in 2005 after previously dismissing the idea as too costly. He assembled an exploratory committee in mid-2006 that included Scott.

As Daley forged ahead with his plans, the exploratory team evolved into Chicago 2016, the committee spearheading the city's push for the Olympics.

When the committee unveiled its original ideas in summer 2006 for hosting the Olympics, Douglas Park did not figure in the plans, nor was the park part of revised plans unveiled months later.

By March 2007, however, Chicago 2016 announced it had again tweaked its plans. Among the changes, Douglas Park would play a role in the Olympics: The aquatics center would move from the University of Illinois at Chicago to the park.

Ald. Ed Smith (28th) said he had pressed the Olympic committee to put a venue on the city's West Side. He said he originally wanted an Olympic swimming pool to be built at Westinghouse High School in his ward. Smith said he had met with members of the Olympic committee, including bid chairman Patrick Ryan, but could not recall if Scott attended.

"I was adamant that we have Olympic activity on the West Side of Chicago. They came out and made the decision to use Douglas Park," Smith said. "I don't know who decided that."

Scott served as president of the Chicago Park District board in the 1990s, and his son is now an area parks manager.

The Chicago 2016 committee and Park District staff met several times to choose between Douglas and Garfield Parks as an Olympic site, a spokesman for the city's bid said. The spokesman said they decided on Douglas in part because it is closer to other downtown sporting venues.

A Park District spokeswoman said neither Scott nor his son had any role in the park's selection.

Organizers in December 2008 changed plans for Douglas Park, deciding to use it as the site for the indoor cycling facility or velodrome, and a temporary outdoor BMX cycling track.

After the Games, the velodrome would become a multiuse sports facility, the largest of its kind in the city.

In addition, one of the pools from the Olympic aquatics center -- now planned for Washington Park on the South Side -- may permanently be moved to Douglas Park.

Scott and the ministers in December 2006 formed their company, WMC-I, Westside Ministers for Change. State records show Scott is the manager.

They shared their vision with the local alderman, Sharon Denise Dixon (24th), a former flight attendant and social worker elected to City Council in 2007.

In Chicago, aldermen have near total control over what gets developed in their wards. A developer who wants a project to get necessary City Hall approval must first visit the local alderman or risk having the project stymied. Aldermen can control or "hold" lots to block development or to allow development to proceed.

Dixon enthusiastically backed Scott's plans and promised to hold nearly 20 lots for development.

In a September 2007 letter to Scott with the subject line "Douglas Park Development," Dixon told Scott that his plans for possible "market rate and affordable" new homes on the city-owned lots was exciting and would continue to revitalize the neighborhood.

"It will also showcase this area of Chicago for the proposed 2016 Summer Olympics," she wrote. "Please feel free to use my endorsement of this project in any way that will continue to benefit balanced growth and development in the 24th Ward."

In a follow-up letter to Scott in May 2008, Dixon included the list of the lots and their addresses.

Both of Dixon's letters of support were sent to the Department of Community Development to inform city staff of her backing for Scott's project.

Dixon initially declined to talk about her endorsement of Scott's plans, referring questions to him and to City Hall. She called back later, saying the project actually would be developed by a group of West Side ministers.

Asked why none of the ministers' names were included in her letters of support for the project, Dixon replied, "That's a very good question. I'm not quite sure. This is not a Michael Scott project per se. It's not about Michael Scott. It's about the development and enhancement of the 24th Ward."

Scott and his team have yet to file any formal plans with the city to develop the lots, which are located in the

3100 block of West Roosevelt Road, the 1100 block of South Albany Avenue and the 3100 block of West Arthington Street.

Rev. Charles Robinson, a politically connected pastor and member of the Chicago Transit Authority board, said he and the five other ministers and their churches were involved. He said Scott will serve as "adviser and developer" in the for-profit project.

Scott said he was acting on the behalf of the ministers. When asked whether he stood to make money on the development, Scott said it would be speculative to say the venture would be profitable.

The team is negotiating to bring a Nike store to Roosevelt Road, near the potential Olympic venues, Robinson said. He said their early plans include a mix of commercial and residential, with stores at street level on Roosevelt Road and housing on the second and third floors.

Scott has experience developing land around the park. Years ago, he teamed up with developer Cecil Butler to build a gated community nearby called Albany Park Townhouses at Albany and Ogden Avenues on the western edge of the park. He also owns other land for development adjacent to the park.

"We started working out in the Lawndale community before there was interest," Scott said. "I've put my money in this community, and most people would never ever consider doing that."

The International Olympic Committee votes for a host city Oct. 2, choosing among Chicago, Madrid, Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo.

Real estate experts said land close to Olympic sporting venues would become more valuable, with the economic impact on land values tapering off the farther a property is from the venues.

"It's clear it is going to have a positive effect on the surrounding property values, and geographically, it will be highest for the closest units," said James Shilling, a DePaul University real estate professor.

If Chicago is not chosen, the lots -- in one of the city's poorest neighborhoods -- may not become more attractive for developers any time soon.

In June, as part of a series of meetings, Chicago 2016 and Park District officials met with residents at the Douglas Park Field House to get community feedback on

what should be left behind in the park after the Olympics. In the audience were Dixon and Scott's son, Michael Scott Jr., who is the area manager for parks in the Austin and North Lawndale communities.

Michael Scott Jr. declined to comment for this story.

Scott Sr.'s role in potentially developing the city lots is especially sensitive given that he is a co-chair of a Chicago 2016 subcommittee that crafted an agreement ensuring jobs and contracts for minorities, as well as promising affordable housing to be a part of the Olympic Village agreement.

The agreement, approved by City Council in April, grew out of concerns from neighborhood groups that economic benefits from the Olympics would go mostly to politically connected insiders.

In addition to his Olympic committee role, Scott also is involved in the proposed Douglas Park sports venues through his position as president of the school board. Chicago 2016's velodrome plans call for tearing down the Collins High School campus' two gyms and indoor pool, a sensitive issue with many community residents who don't want the recently renovated facilities demolished.

Scott said that he was not on the school board when he become involved in the real estate project, and that his role with the Olympics at the time was minimal.

But Valerie Leonard, a member of the Lawndale Alliance neighborhood group, said she was concerned about Scott's various roles.

"I believe that everybody should have the opportunity to make money. I do believe in the American way," she said. "But I think it's problematic when you have insiders continuously getting access to information that most people don't have access to."

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No Games Chicago Update

54 Days To Decision

Daily News

August 8, 2009

The People Speak

Chicago isn't prepared, financially or socially, to host an Olympics. Daley is too corrupt of an official to be honest and open about the bids, grants, and tax dollars. Too many people are seeing the short-term tourism effects rather than the long-term, negative socio-economic effects.

Kimberly Richardson
Chicago

Signer of No Games
online petition

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

Residents continue to flock to the 2016 Committee's community meetings demanding answers to tough questions. We think it's fair to say - these questions are NOT being answered.

49th Ward 2016 meeting

Let The Games Begin

By Dimitrios Kalantzis - Lake Effect News

If pointing out the holes within a salesman's pitch were an Olympic sport, Rogers Park would have a gold medal. Last night more than 150 people packed the Rogers Park Public Library with an overwhelming message for the Chicago 2016 Olympic committee: the emperor is not, in fact, wearing any clothes.

Residents and activists of the 49th Ward listened to the committee's 35-minute presentation, the 27th so far of the mayoral ordered community meetings, which included sound bites from pro-sports athletes and President Barack Obama.

As reported last month by LEN, the golden goose eggs offered up by Chicago 2016, include 31,000 jobs over the next 10 years, \$10 million for work force development, \$1 billion in federal money for repairing Chicago's mass transit system, new sports and recreational facilities to be turned over to city parks, and a lasting legacy for the children.

But when the floor was opened for questions, the crowd went hunting for the magic beans.
"In the history of Chicago and minorities," said one resident, "when it comes to the goodies, it's not good."



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[Open letter to the IOC: "Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"](#)

"Is there anything projected in the future that can address that?" the man asked before turning to Ald. Joe Moore, saying, "we bungled the parking meters."

Arnold Randall, director of Neighborhood Legacies at Chicago 2016, tried to deflect talk of the City Council's infamous 75-year parking meter deal to no avail.

"It's interconnected," the man said in response. The onslaught continued.

"I think it's disingenuous to say there's zero risk, because quite frankly there's no such thing as zero risk," said Seth Mayer, a 5-year resident of Rogers Park, quoting Chicago 2016 president Lori Healey.

"I'd much rather have an honest assessment of what the risks are than be told just: 'trust us, trust us,'" Mayer said.

Chicago 2016 will take out insurance policies to protect it against the "unforeseen kinds of acts," said Healey: sponsor's bankruptcies, cancelled games and acts of terrorism; premiums will cost at least \$41 million.

Another resident questioned the committee's plan to offer 30 percent affordable housing in the Olympic Village following the games, citing the recent University Village scandal, in which many units were purchased by non-qualifying buyers for profit.

When residents asked about the oft-penny-pinched Chicago Transit Authority, Healey dropped a bombshell for many residents who mistakenly think CTA improvements are guaranteed:

"Our budget does not contain funding for CTA improvements," Healey said.

"However history has shown that when U.S. cities get the games that they get infrastructure funding from the federal government to help support that," she said.

Residents continued to evoke Chicago's current budget woes, much to the support of the audience and chagrin of the panel.

"My question is concerning the budget and the fact that I don't really believe in your budget," said one resident.

"The city's broke and we can't pay our daily expenses without selling off our parking meters," he said, garnering applause from the crowd.

Citing a No Games Chicago report that China spent \$40 billion and that London spent \$16 billion, stark contrasts to Chicago's estimated \$3.8 billion in expected costs, Chicago 2016 blamed those added expenses on

misguided infrastructure development, mistakes Chicago will not replicate, Healey said.

"Once we do get the bids and actual work starts, who's going to provide oversight?" asked another resident.

"I personally don't trust the way the city does things," she said.

If the city wins its bid, a new Olympic board will be appointed by the International Olympic Committee and the U.S. National Olympic Committee, said Healey. President Obama, the Illinois Governor and even the Mayor and "business community" can make appointments to the board, Healey said.

The "transparency" of expenditures, she said, will be "web-based and reviewable by the public."

Residents continued voicing their apprehensions, articulating the desperation many of us feel through this recession. "Chicagoans love their city," said one woman, "but we also feel as though our quality of life is eroding."

Ultimately and despite the tough, pointed questions, Chicago 2016 was not on trial last night; the city of Chicago was.

Following the meeting, Ald. Joe Moore (49th Ward) said, "I think the questions that were asked were intelligent, for the most part, very thoughtful and, uh, I feel it was a good meeting."

The City Council is now waiting on an independent review board's report on Chicago 2016's proposed budget. It is expected to be released in late August or early September. When asked if that would give the City Council enough time to review the report before the October 2 IOC announcement, Moore said, "Hopefully, we'll have enough time."

As one man said, using a simple analogy:

"I think the Olympics will do a great benefit to the city, but as it seems, most people have said: Clout Chicago

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No Games Chicago Update

53 Days To Decision

Daily News

August 9, 2009

The People Speak

My wife and I are unemployed. I know we will be stuck with a minimum of \$100 million in taxes per the Chicago Sun Times of 8/6/09. For two weeks of fame for our mayor he and his buddies will make money. For we people of Chicago, our families and grandchildren to be paying for this for generations is unfair. PLEASE SAY NO. The largest ever ongoing federal investigation of a city, Chicago, shows the corruption here. PLEASE give the Olympics to a city were it will benefit the citizens, not Chicago fat cats.

Donald Skonicki

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

It's getting ugly in Chicago. The Olympic leadership is under fire and when the press actually does its job and dares to question the Mayor, he gets very angry and reveals a side of his personality usually hidden from the public.

Just read today's account in the Chicago Tribune:

[Tough queries unleash a terrifying alter ego](#)

John Kass - Chicago Tribune - August 9, 2009

For most of last week, Mayor Richard Daley was doing fine, calmly making pronouncements, issuing sweeping edicts, decrees and commands.

But then he released his inner Mayor Chucky.

And when the terrifying Mayor Chucky persona came out by week's end -- after a Tribune investigation about political insiders poised to cash in on Daley's plans of hosting the 2016 Olympic Games -- it wasn't pretty.

"I just saw it on TV," said a friend on the phone. "A reporter asks him a question about the Olympic land deal, and bingo. Mayor Chucky. Wow. It's scary."

Positively Chuckified.

Days earlier, Daley was publicly relaxed, almost like a normal person. He stood high above his metropolis, perched on a tiny sliver of glass, standing on the Ledge on the observation Skydeck of what I still call Sears Tower. He was master of all he surveyed, staring at the tiny humans on the street far below. The man looked

Chicago

Signer of No Games
online petition



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[Open letter to the IOC: "Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"](#)

happy.

And he didn't lose his cool when foolish Chicago Public Schools officials selected a popular singer as spokesman for the mayor's big back-to-school push, without telling him the singer's big hit is "Birthday Sex."

But it was inevitable that Mayor Chucky would pop out. On Friday, observers noticed the aggravated facial expressions, then the hand waving, great circular motions from the shoulder, then the sneering, the finger pointing, and finally, the angry lip curling.

It was more terrifying than that little killer doll in the horror movies. But this was no Hollywood fictional character on screen. This wasn't some demonic puppet with 12-inch legs and tiny overalls, scampering down a dark hallway, wielding a butcher knife, and shrieking for blood. No, this was the mayor of Chicago in real life, yelling and trying to bully reporters because he was asked about a Tribune investigation.

The Tribune reported Friday that developer Michael Scott Sr., an insider who is also the mayor's president of the Chicago Board of Education, quietly arranged to develop nearly 20 parcels of West Side real estate right near a planned Olympics site.

Scott also is on a Daley Olympic subcommittee that developed ethics guidelines about how politically connected insiders aren't supposed to cash in on Chicago Olympic gold.

As if.

The mayor didn't want to answer. All he wanted to talk about was how he was providing infrastructure developments for the good of the people. The Scott questions were considered "off topic" by the mayor. Many of you probably don't know that the mayor's office insists that reporters stay "on topic" at most of his public events.

"On topic" means that he'll talk about the stunt of the moment, so reporters can give oodles of coverage to the news managed out of the mayor's press office. Many days, the mayor's schedulers inform reporters he'll only accept questions "on topic." And then you see the stunt on TV, the ribbon cutting or the meet-and-greet with the children or the seniors, and you think you're actually watching the news.

But a few local reporters on Friday, including a young Tribune reporter named Dan P. Blake, figured they should act like reporters, not press agents. So they

dared ask "off topic" questions about Michael Scott. That's when the Mayor Chucky came out.

"No," he said. "this is just gonna be on this."

Translation: Shut up. Stay on topic.

ABC-Ch. 7's Charles Thomas asked him, politely, why he would refuse comment on an important story.

"You know, I'm out every day, Charles," said Mayor Chucky. "I'm sorry I can't be feeding the machine every day for you. I have a job to do. ... I'm sorry I can't answer questions every day. Every day. I do it enough. ... You ask me all types of questions. Today, yesterday, you all had the opportunity. There will always be headlines, there will be another headline Monday, another Wednesday on something else, but that's not my job, to fill your headlines."

Another compliant reporter went back "on topic" hoping to appease the mayor, but then Blake politely asked a question:

"When do you think you'll be available next to talk about the deal reported about Michael Scott?"

"Oh, I do it every day," Mayor Chucky insisted. "You've been with me every day. NEVER insult me with that question! You're insulting me because every day I'm here, you're never here. And don't print that! So I know, you'll print it."

Huh? What? All Blake asked was a legitimate question about when the mayor would answer a legitimate question.

On Saturday, the mayor finally talked about Scott, but only long enough to deny, deny, deny and say reporters were making it all up just to hurt his feelings and ruin everything. "You come to conclusions, you're trying to hurt 2016. I don't know why. ...You come to conclusions!"

What will happen if Chicago actually wins the 2016 Olympics?

We'll have lots and lots of insider deals.

And we'll have lots of Mayor Chucky.

jskass@tribune.com



No Games Chicago Update

52 Days To Decision

Daily News

August 10, 2009

The People Speak

Daley can't manage the budget for the City of Chicago and is one of the most corrupt politicians to date. His, I don't know, to every issue that falls at his feet shows how crafty and disingenuous a politician he really is. Chicago can not afford the Olympics. Chicago has too many costly problems already with its infrastructure to throw itself into bankruptcy by adding the cost of the Olympics. No Olympics in Chicago!

Jean Brennan
Chicago

Signer of No Games
online petition

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

Scandal continues to swirl around Mayor Daley and his family

[Daley's nephew gets break from city pension funds Vanecko gets to put less of his own money in risky deal](#)

BY TIM NOVAK Chicago Sun-Times Reporter -
August 10, 2009

When they started their real estate investment company three years ago, Mayor Daley's nephew Robert Vanecko and his partners made a promise to five City of Chicago pension funds they were seeking as investors:


We'll put \$7 million of our own money into the deal to show we believe in our high-risk strategy of investing city retirees' pension money in developing inner-city neighborhoods.

That assurance helped the start-up venture known as DV Urban Realty Partners quickly land \$68 million from the city pension funds.

But now it turns out that Vanecko and his partners -- Chicago developer Allison S. Davis and his son Jared Davis -- will put in just \$3.5 million, half of what they initially promised.

Despite some concerns, the city pension funds quietly agreed to rework the deal with Vanecko and the Davises last August, making changes that financially benefitted the mayor's nephew and his partners, recently subpoenaed records show.

Vanecko -- whose dealings have come under scrutiny by the U.S. attorney's office in Chicago and the city's

We delivered copies of this to the IOC!

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[Open letter to the IOC: "Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"](#)

inspector general -- personally lobbied city pension officials to rework the deal with his company, records show.

Three of the five pension fund boards voted on and approved the changes -- funds representing police, laborers and municipal employees. Each of those pension fund boards includes high-ranking members of the Daley administration who voted to approve the reworked deal.

The approval of just three of the five pension fund boards was needed. So once those three agreed, the pension funds for Chicago teachers and CTA employees didn't even vote on the reworked deal with Vanecko's company.

Which apparently was fine with CTA pension board executive director John Kallianis, who wrote in an Aug. 22, 2008, e-mail to his counterpart at the teachers pension fund: "I was hoping we could sit on the sidelines."

Vanecko's negotiations with the pension fund officials are outlined in e-mails and other documents that a federal grand jury recently subpoenaed. Authorities are looking into how the pension funds decided to invest with the mayor's nephew, even though his new company had no track record; acknowledged that, despite potentially big payouts, its investment strategy was high-risk, and had been turned down by six other government pension funds.

Two weeks after the grand jury subpoenas were issued, Vanecko announced in June he would leave DV Urban by July 1. Neither the company nor pension officials would say if Vanecko has indeed left the company he started with Allison Davis, a longtime Daley ally in the city's African-American communities. Davis formerly headed a small Chicago law firm whose staff once included a then-young attorney named Barack Obama.

"We are continuing our discussions with Mr. Davis regarding Mr. Vanecko. In light of those ongoing discussions, we do not believe it is appropriate at this time to comment," said Michael Fishman, an attorney representing the three city employee pension funds that approved the reworked deal with DV Urban.

Fishman was hired by John Gallagher Jr., executive director of Chicago's police pension fund, who led the negotiations to redo the deal. Gallagher cited potential federal tax liabilities that he said the pension funds could face if DV Urban's real estate deals ended up turning a profit by the time the deal expires in 2014. So far, DV Urban's investments have fallen in value, which it has

blamed largely on the recession.

The new deal gives one key new benefit to the pension funds: They are now guaranteed that they will get back all of their initial investment before DV Urban is paid any incentive fees.

Under the revisions, DV Urban would still be able to collect as much as \$8 million in management fees from the pension funds.

It also gets an extra year to invest the pension money, a quicker return on its investment, and the halved requirement for investing its own money, to \$3.5 million.

The subpoenaed records show the city pension fund managers had concerns about reducing DV Urban's initial promise to invest \$7 million.

"We want DV to have as much skin in the game as possible," James Mohler, of the municipal employees pension fund, wrote in a July 21, 2008, e-mail to the executive directors of all five pension funds. Fishman wrote in an e-mail that same day that the reworked agreement is "a much better deal" for the pension funds because DV "gets no money until we get paid."

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No Games Chicago Update

51 Days To Decision

Daily News

August 11, 2009

The People Speak

Chicago is already tottering financially. Let's not let our vanity and wishful thinking get in the way of sound finance, and financing the essential infrastructure that Chicago citizens really need.

Withdraw the Bid!

**Laura Louzader
Chicago**

**Signer of No Games
online petition**

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

The Mayor and the 2016 Committee continue to be criticized by the business press. David Greising is the business reporter for the Chicago Tribune.

[Public on hook deserves look into Chicago's Olympics bid](#)

David Greising - Chicago Tribune - August 11, 2009

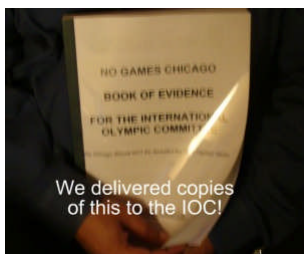
For Chicago 2016, the Olympic organizing committee, the long march through Chicago's 50 wards is nearly done.

The community meetings that wrap up this month have been arduous. Yet the Chicago committee has endured, knowing its leaders, in cooperation with Mayor Richard Daley, will reign as near-sovereigns over Chicago for the next seven years -- building stadiums and housing complexes, controlling park land and transportation routes -- should the city host the 2016 Games.

None of it will happen, of course, unless the City Council commits taxpayers to an unlimited financial guarantee that the Games will succeed. Daley and Chicago 2016 Chairman Patrick Ryan have said as much.

All of which raises an age-old Chicago question: "Where's ours?"

If Chicago's taxpayers are to offer an indispensable guarantee, they should get more than the world's biggest swim and track meet. They should get, in fact, a tool that will provide a close-up view into the wheeling, the dealing, the high jinks and palm greasing that will make the 2016 Games uniquely Chicago.



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[Open letter to the IOC: "Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"](#)

In other words, the City Council should insist -- and Chicago 2016 should agree -- that the organizing committee become subject to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act.

The law requires government entities to provide information of public interest about how they operate. Now, Chicago 2016 is not a public entity. If a nosy person should ask, say, what's up with the awarding of a contract, or about how a certain road got rerouted, or how a lakefront harbor became an Olympic rowing venue, Chicago 2016 could tell them to just buzz off. That's private business.

Not anymore. Chicago 2016's demand that it needs an unlimited financial guarantee, not to mention \$500 million from the city and \$250 million from the state, makes organizing a Chicago Olympics a very public matter.

The City Council, before granting the unlimited financial guarantee, should demand that Chicago 2016 agree to honor requests for information, following the same openness guidelines as described in Illinois' freedom of information law. The committee should appoint a freedom-of-information officer, answerable to the City Council and responsible for complying with information requests, as government offices do.

Just last week, Tribune reporters Todd Lighty, David Heinzmann and Kathy Bergen showed what public information requests -- part of their research -- can yield. In revealing that bid committee member and Chicago Board of Education President Michael Scott Sr. has set up a real estate deal that could benefit him if the Games go on, the Tribune reminded Chicagoans -- yet again -- that Chicago is the city that works, too often, for the clique that surrounds Daley.

Why would Chicagoans need the power of the Freedom of Information Act?

The answer is simple: Today, Chicago 2016 needs us. They need the citizens' financial backing or the International Olympic Committee will not designate Chicago as host city over Rio de Janeiro, Tokyo and Madrid.

Once Chicago gets the Games, though, the power equation reverses. For the next seven years, the Chicago organizing committee becomes the most powerful entity in town. Its needs will trump virtually anything else on the civic landscape. The Chicago Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games -- COCOG, get used to those initials -- will be answerable

to Daley and no one else.

Last month, Chicago 2016 tipped its hand toward the sort of imperious behavior that could become common without appropriate checks. It delayed, until after the Oct. 2 IOC vote, the filing of IRS forms disclosing plans for funding the Games. So much for openness and the timely release of information.

To some skeptics, this might seem like a far-out request. There is no way Chicago 2016 can commit to public disclosure, some might say. Unprecedented, others may argue.

Under pressure early this year to demonstrate public support to the IOC, the Chicago bid committee voluntarily succumbed to community demands for openness in the awarding of Olympics contracts.

Subjecting itself to freedom-of-information requirements would take the committee just a half-step further. It also would comply with the spirit of the Illinois law, which treats contractors serving a government function as if they are the government itself.

In response to my request for its thinking on the topic, Chicago 2016 issued a statement with the expected boilerplate about being a private entity, the community meetings and its agreement to competitive bidding on contracts. What the committee did not say is the one sentence it should have: "Yes, we'll answer the public's questions about how we're financing and building the Games."

Openness should be the price of putting taxpayers on the hook for the 2016 Games.

Email Marketing by





No Games Chicago Update

50 Days To Decision

Daily News

August 12, 2009

The People Speak

My family traveled into the city on July 3 to attend the Taste of Chicago and watch the fireworks.

Upon arrival, they were turned away by Chicago Police who said it wasn't safe and that the event was "closed" due to violence.

My question is this: If Mayor Ricard Daley can't provide for the protection of people attending a regular event like the Taste of Chicago, how does he plan to protect those attending the 2016 Olympics?

**Mike Volling,
Antioch**

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

The 2016 Committee continues to meet with community members. The more they meet, the angrier the community residents get.

[Olympic Committee meets a skeptical local community](#)

By Dan Kolen | The Gazette - August 2009

Reaching out to local residents, the Chicago 2016 Olympic Committee visited Marshall High School's auditorium on the West Side on July 14 in a meeting to discuss how the Olympics would affect communities if the City wins the Olympic bid.

The Olympics would provide an indoor track located in Douglass Park on the West Side, an Olympic Village in Bronzeville that would be transformed after the games into housing (around 30% affordable), and a "direct surplus to the City's budget," committee members claimed.

Many people who attended the meeting expressed concern about the Olympics, despite committee members' rosy view. "They didn't answer the questions, plain and simple," said Maurice Robinson. "With the Olympics being here, the issues that are ahead of us - and there are so many problems already - it's hard to imagine what's going to happen."

Public transit

Concerning public transportation, the committee announced officials would arrange an additional bus system specifically for the people going to the games; no parking would be permitted around the games' sites.

**Letter to the Editor
Chicago Tribune
July 29, 2009**

Federal aid the City expects to get for transportation would "help immensely" to "permanently improve" the City's transportation infrastructure, according to committee members.

"Both Atlanta and Salt Lake City benefited very significantly from federal transportation projects in their cities, so they would be ready for the games," said Doug Arnot, the committee's director of venues and games operations. "The existing system was improved in time for the games" and had a lasting impact, he noted.

Stephanie Patton, now a Chicago resident, lived in Atlanta in the lead-up to the 1996 games and said Atlanta did see a positive, permanent change in the infrastructure. For example, she noted, express lanes of certain thoroughfares were increased from three to five, although traffic still was massive.

"What happened was, though, during heavy traffic, the people of the city had to learn those back roads" during the games, she said. The 1996 Atlanta Olympics were held in a city growing and expanding, but Chicago is an already built-up city, with public transit plagued by frequent delays, fare hikes, and threats of service cuts. The comments by the committee therefore did not help calm the concerns many residents had about the permanent impact the games would have on public transportation.

"You certainly have your work cut out for you," Lee Ford, a Garfield Park resident, said to Arnot, who expressed a negative view of "the public transportation access and the public transportation system in the City of Chicago."



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[Open letter to the IOC: "Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"](#)

Public funding

On June 17, Mayor Richard M. Daley signed a contract with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) saying the City will take on full, unlimited financial liability for "planning, organization, and staging" the Olympics. The contract and issues pertaining to funding the games drew criticism from several attendees.

The IOC is "in bed with Mayor Daley." Patton said. "If we get the Olympics, it's going to be a travesty for Chicago. I feel strongly that with Mayor Daley's leadership we're going to have to go deep into our pockets."

The committee members remained adamant that no taxpayer dollars would be used and that the City has not had to pay so far for planning the games. Despite the contract, the City "will not pay a dime for the games," committee members asserted.

"No games since 1972 have lost money; all have turned a surplus," said Lori Healey, president of the committee.

"We also have additional insurance protection so we can cover costs on projects."

Huge price tags are associated with many of the proposed structures: Olympic Village would cost \$1 billion, a stadium in Washington Park just under \$400 million, and the Douglass Park facility that would be converted into a permanent track and field center after the games would cost \$37.1 million. The games' total cost is estimated at around \$4.8 billion.

To cover such massive costs, the City would receive more than one billion dollars from television rights, with private financiers paying the rest, committee members said.

"No taxpayer dollars are included in the budget," Healey said. "We're 100% privately financed. In fact, we expect to turn a \$450 million surplus."

Neighborhood impact

From reduced ticket prices for Chicago residents, to favorable vendor deals for locals, to World Sport Chicago's (WSC) sports program for kids in Chicago, the committee outlined direct, positive effects of the Olympics for the community.

"It's our commitment that World Sport Chicago grows and continues to grow," Arnot said about the program that already has enrolled 30,000 of the 300,000 kids in Chicago Public Schools. The committee showed a short documentary during the meeting to highlight a gymnastics class for WSC. Those attending responded with skepticism about how much the program and committee really wanted to help the city.

"We had never heard of World Sport Chicago until today," Patton said. "And with the games, we're going to be made to feel like guests or prisoners in our own backyards."

Some in attendance voiced support for the games, however.

"I think the Olympics are going to be a great thing for the city," said local resident Walter Fiedler. "The things that are going to happen are already under way, but it is a way for the people to know what is expected and what it's going to mean for us."

Healey said that, with WSC and the new infrastructure, the games will "help us provide something new to the neighborhoods. There will be a lasting impact in the neighborhoods."

She also stressed the importance of the residents' support.

"We need to show that the people of Chicago are passionate about sports, about bringing the games to the city," Healey said. "With your support, we can really transform this city."

Some at the meeting were not keen on lending their support, however. Patton said, "While you're advocating for support for the Olympics, advocate to get our children educated."

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No Games Chicago Update

49 Days To Decision

Daily News

August 13, 2009

The People Speak

I live in Chicago and my kids attend Chicago public schools. I currently have no plans to move. As a Chicago homeowner and taxpayer, I certainly have a vested interest in seeing my city thrive. I also know the city is in a tough financial spot right now.

I've been reading your bi-weekly Olympic missives on this website and I'd like to suggest - in all seriousness -- a topic for your next entry. Many of us in Chicago are opposed to the Olympics coming to town because we do not trust a lot of

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

The 2016 Committee continues to meet with community members. The more they meet, the angrier the community residents get.

[Bronzeville Not Buying The Olympic Guarantee](#)

Angela Caputo - Progress Illinois - August 12, 2009

Ever since they got a whiff of proposed plans to turn their Chicago neighborhoods into ground zero for the 2016 Olympics, many South Side residents have grown concerned that they will end up sidelined by the games. Last year, a coalition organizations began pressuring City Hall to produce a legally-binding "community benefits agreement" to guarantee the locals would see a cut -- via apprenticeships and housing -- of the Olympic development boom. As regular readers know, the city initially attempted to stonewall the group.

But their campaign ultimately produced some bad PR for the bid committee, not to mention the mayor, and the City Hall insiders relented -- sort of. In March, Chicago 2016 agreed to sign a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) upping minority contracting, local employment, and affordable housing goals. But legal experts subsequently confirmed what

the public officials connected with the bid. (Many of us also think our city is too cash-strapped to take on this adventure.) Week after week, we read about insider deals and apparent conflicts of interest involving many folks close to those at the 2016 helm. Too often, journalists who probe, asks questions, and try to gather information using FOIA are routinely stonewalled (and often ignored).

I'd appreciate it if, in your next piece for The Huffington Post, you'd make the case for why we taxpayers should trust these leaders to keep the 2016 Summer Games transparent and free from the cronyism and corruption that so permeates everyday life here in Chicago.

Matt Farmer,
Chicago
Comment on [Pat Ryan's online](#)

community groups knew all along: the document hardly represents a guarantee.

Apparently, Chicago 2016 thought that they had outfoxed the coalition -- and the public -- by handing them the MOU and walking away with some favorable headlines. Indeed, while appearing at one of the bid committee's community meetings in Bronzeville last night, chairman Pat Ryan attempted to trot out the document as "legally-binding" evidence that the South Side is in line for big gains. Luckily, the residents in attendance -- invited from the 3rd, 4th, and 20th Wards -- knew better. "You're selling it like it's going to protect us," Kenwood-Oakland Community Organization's Jitu Travis told Ryan. "It's not. Where's the legally-binding document?"

Ryan countered that the committee's obligation is to its private investors, claiming that they will pay for "100 percent" of the games' "operating expenses." The identities of all those interests remains under wraps, though, as the bid committee continues to suspiciously push off disclosure requirements until after Oct. 2 (when the 2016 host city is announced). Moreover, the big expenses will come from capital improvements, not operating expenses. As Tribune business columnist David Greising pointed out yesterday, it's hard to swallow the committee's insistence that the Olympics are solely a private venture:

Chicago 2016's demand that it needs an unlimited financial guarantee, not to mention \$500 million from the city and \$250 million from the state, makes organizing a Chicago Olympics a very public matter.

If last night's meeting is any indication, South Siders are catching on. When Ryan attempted to prove his confidence in the Chicago 2016 plan by offering to bet each audience member \$1,000 that they won't pay for any of the Olympics, he was virtually laughed off the stage.



No Games Chicago Update

48 Days To Decision

Daily News

August 14, 2009

The People Speak

**Our city does not need the Olympics!!!
#1 Buildings crumbling, city services deteriorating. Our city needs better schools, Public transportation overhaul and city services to help the Chicagoans do to cutbacks. #2 more private sector jobs.. Without the jobs crime has riddled streets/neighborhoods. "NO WORK"!! (NO OLYMPICS)**

**Kurtis Schmitt
Chicago**

**Signer of No Games
online petition**

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

David Greising is the business reporter for the Chicago Tribune. He's been growing skeptical of the 2016 Committee's willingness to be honest with the people of Chicago.

[Time to hold 2016 Olympics committee's feet to flame on open records](#)

David Greising - August 14, 2009

"This is a good thing for our bid," Pat Ryan was saying the other night, after Bronzeville neighborhood citizens grilled Olympics officials for nearly three hours about costs and risks of staging a Chicago Olympics.

A root-canal look on his face, Ryan had sat in a hot, crowded South Side meeting room as residents raised concerns about the demolition of historic buildings, travel inconveniences and access to business opportunities that could accompany a 2016 Games.

The Chicago 2016 bid committee has been the most open ever, asserted Ryan, the chairman. The group that would run the Games -- the Chicago Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games, or OCOG -- will be open to scrutiny too, Olympics officials have said.

Yet when it comes to opening their own records to public scrutiny, the way all public agencies must, the transparency goes dark.



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[Open letter to the IOC: "Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"](#)

As a private entity, Chicago 2016 typically would have no obligation to open its records. But because it will get \$750 million in state and city financial guarantees -- and wants an unlimited city commitment to cover any major Olympics shortfall -- in exchange it should agree to let taxpayers know how Olympics money will be spent.

Ryan and his second-in-command, Lori Healey, felt no obligation to open the Olympic committee's records. Yet the more they tried to explain their reasoning the less persuasive it became. Ryan asserted that freedom of information requests might make it impossible for Chicago 2016 and the International Olympic Committee to sell sponsorships, the biggest source of money for any Olympics.

"We're going to be having a competition for sponsorships, and I hope that you wouldn't request the information in the FOIA that we reveal what this company is bidding and what that company is bidding," Ryan said.

But Illinois' freedom of information law specifically protects proprietary business information. Bids for sponsorships and other contracts would remain secret.

Healey implied that the bid committee is powerless to bind the actual organizing committee to an open-records commitment.

"It's up to the OCOG," she said.

Healey and virtually everyone else on Chicago 2016 are expected to serve on the Chicago Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games, but Healey makes the two groups sound like foreign entities.

"The OCOG is governed by its own board," she said. "They'll have to make decisions on this."

If the bid committee cannot make commitments that bind the OCOG, someone has a lot of explaining to do. The state and city need to know, because this puts their \$750 million guarantees at risk. Someone tell the community groups that the fair-contracting agreement hammered out with dozens of community groups may have no effect on how the OCOG operates.

In fact, someone tell the IOC. They need to know if the bid committee's word is not the OCOG's bond.

What Ryan seems not to appreciate is that an open-records policy might help Chicago's bid. Contracting scandals have ruined past Olympics, and Chicago's reputation on such matters is hardly pristine.

When Chicago 2016 goes to Copenhagen for the IOC vote Oct. 2, its bid will be stronger with an open-records commitment.

Now, Ryan is a phenomenally successful insurance executive. He knows a deal breaker when he sees it, and he knows he needs the city's financial guarantee for the Games or there is no Chicago Olympics.

Ryan and Mayor Richard Daley, who want the Olympics so badly, will do about anything to get that guarantee. And that is why -- in exchange for a government guarantee in a city and state with a corruption-riddled track record -- citizens must insist on access to the Olympic committee's records.

This is called negotiating leverage, and taxpayers and citizens, in those rare moments when they have leverage, are fools if they do not use it.

Access to the Olympic committee's records is within the reach of the people who are being asked to guarantee the Games. All the City Council has to do -- at hearings next month -- is ask.

dgreising@tribune.com

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No Games Chicago Update

47 Days To Decision

Daily News

August 15, 2009

The People Speak

The games are just another opportunity for the politicians to steal from the public.

Let

Pat Ryan spend his money on this nonsense,
Not the taxpayers.

Michael Underwood
Chicago

Signer of No Games
online petition

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

John Kass is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. He has been critical of Mayor Daley and Chicago politics for many years. Like other journalists covering Chicago, the mayor, the 2016 bid and the general state of corruption and incompetence here, Mr. Kass is connecting the dots and placing the bid inside the circle of corrupt practices our leaders are so well known for.

[Chicago's politicians have got ethics covered](#)

John Kass - August 14, 2009

With irritating frequency, national news anchors and members of Congress are using a cool new phrase they must have just invented themselves: "The Chicago Way."

They talk like this even though President Barack Obama of Chicago continues to demand that citizens stand up and fight political corruption, just as long as they're citizens of Africa.

He did so during his campaign, complaining that Africans felt numbed and powerless by corruption. Visiting Africa a few weeks ago and without a hint of irony, Obama struck again, saying that Africans hoping to open a business or get a job surely must feel as if they "still have to pay a bribe."

Bribes? Can you imagine?





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[Open letter to the IOC: "Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"](#)

Someday, our president might visit Illinois and say the same thing, and that will really make news. Until that day, we're left with Washington media types snickering about this "Chicago Way" business as if there aren't any good ethics around here.

When it comes to ethics, we have so many ethics boards, ethics panels, ordinances, laws and writs, all crafted with snazzy loopholes by machine politicians, that Illinois must be the veritable bastion of ethics in America.

Consider the case of Gary M. O'Neill, lured from Louisiana to become director of the Chicago Board of Ethics. It's a collection of experts who decide what's ethical, and is controlled by Mayor Richard M. Daley.

In 1990, a year after Daley was elected, O'Neill was named ethics boss, and many surely dreamed Chicago would transcend the tired politics of the past. Sadly, a few days after he took the job, it was revealed O'Neill had been sued by the Louisiana Ethics Board for financial irregularities. And he'd been subpoenaed as part of a criminal investigation in a Louisiana insurance company scam.

Oh, and he also had an outstanding warrant for battery, stemming from a bar fight in Baton Rouge. So O'Neill resigned, hopped in a rental car and took off for Louisiana, but he was arrested in Missouri driving 102 m.p.h. That's the last we heard of the poor guy.

Clearly, our politicians endeavor to persevere in the ethics department. Just this week, Chicago solved several ethical dilemmas.

There were those snaky land maneuvers near a Chicago 2016 Olympic site that involved Michael Scott, the president of the Chicago Board of Education. Scott is also a member of a watchdog panel responsible for keeping political insiders from capitalizing on Chicago's Olympic dreams.

The mayor said there was nothing to it, everything was completely ethical, the Tribune owed him a personal apology for stories (columns?) that said he was angry even though he really wasn't angry, just passionate. Basically (pronounced Basick-eee), he decreed we should just shut up about the "phony story."

A few hours later, the mayor's Olympics ethics officer decided that, well, the story wasn't really phony and Scott probably should have disclosed that he was orchestrating land deals (featuring a cool Nike store) near a proposed Olympics venue. But what the heck?

We also had another ethical snafu. No, not the Chicago reform alderman clouting his close family member into a top magnet school though the relative didn't have the grades. And no, not those wholesale changes in the city's contract department that has a great track record of giving affirmative action deals to white guys who know the mayor.

I'm talking about the retirement party for the grand poobah of Chicago zoning, Ald. William J.P. Banks (36th), the chairman of the zoning committee. His nephew, James Banks, has made a fortune as a zoning lawyer.

The Banks retirement party was to be held (where else?) in Rosemont. Invitations ordered revelers to fork over \$200 apiece: "Make checks payable to William J. P. Banks (memo: retirement party)."

The Tribune's savvy City Hall writer Dan Mihalopoulos broke the story. He was also part of a Tribune investigative team that worked on a series called "Neighborhoods for Sale" involving the Banks family zoning empire. Now the feds are looking into the 36th Ward group and there's been a plethora of retirements.

After the story ran, Banks' guys said the money was really going to unspecified "children's charities" in the ward, though the invitation never mentioned charities. Unhappily, Steve Berlin, executive director of the Chicago Ethics Board, did not return phone calls.

But then Banks had his retirement party canceled, just because.

Cash and politicians are like hot dogs and buns. Cook County Circuit Court Clerk Dorothy Brown, who now wants to serve Daley as his County Board president, had a habit of regularly accepting cash gifts from employees on her birthday. But she finally stopped, so don't worry.

See how things work around here?

Obama probably won't be forced to say anything about Chicago corruption.

That's because we've got ethics out the wazoo, the Chicago Way.

jskass@tribune.com

Email Marketing by





No Games Chicago Update

46 Days To Decision

Daily News

August 16, 2009

The People Speak

I don't want the Olympics here in Chicago. Our mayor is a crook and has made every effort to make deals, pass ordinances and make the hard working citizens of Chicago pay fines that are truly illegal and violate our rights so that he can get the \$\$\$ to fund these Olypics . Shame on you Richard Daley...

Anonymous
Chicago

Signer of No Games
online petition

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

The city of Chicago is in such poor financial shape that the city will close tomorrow, Monday. This is just the first of a series of planned shut downs over this and next year.

We told you that the city is broke. Every week we are getting new details of just how bad our finances are.

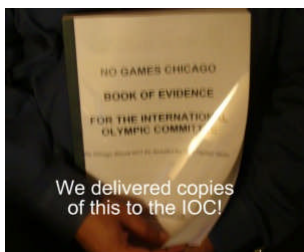
The more news we get about our terrible finances, the angrier citizens are getting about the Mayor's relentless pursuit of the 2016 Olympics.



[City Government Closed For Business On Monday](#)

Sun-Times News Group, August 14, 2009

If you planned to check out a library book, visit a city clinic or have your garbage picked up on Monday, you're out of luck.



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[Open letter to the IOC:](#)
"Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"

The City of Chicago will basically be closed for business on Aug. 17, a reduced-service day in which most city employees are off without pay, according to a release from the Office of Budget and Management. City Hall, public libraries, health clinics and most city offices will be closed.

Emergency service providers including police, firefighters and paramedics will be working at full strength, but most services not directly related to public safety, including street sweeping, will not be provided, the release said.

That also includes garbage pickup. Residents who receive regular collection on Mondays should expect trash to be picked up the following day, the release said. Some other customers may experience a one-day delay as collectors catch up.

As part of the 2009 budget, three reduced-service days were planned for 2009, days which are unpaid for all affected employees -- the Friday after Thanksgiving; Christmas Eve; and New Year's Eve. The City Council recently approved moving the reduced-service day planned for New Year's Eve to Monday.

The 2009 budget anticipates saving \$8.3 million due to the reduced-service days.

In addition to reduced service days, all non-union employees were asked to take a series of furlough days and unpaid holidays, and most non-sworn union employees agreed to similar unpaid time off.

"Every dollar we save from these measures helps to save jobs, and in the long-term, maintain services for Chicagoans," Mayor Daley said in the release. "This plan relies on most of our civilian employees to be part of the solution to our very serious budget challenges. I want to thank them again for their sacrifice."



No Games Chicago Update

45 Days To Decision

Daily News

August 17, 2009

The People Speak

It's more than obvious that the leaders (politicians) of the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois are incapable of keeping their promise to keep funding private for the 2016 Olympics. It is a myth that Olympics make a profit for the host cities. Instead, we should be focusing on making sure our citizens have quality healthcare, education, improved infrastructure and access to good jobs. If we can't balance a budget how are we going to pay for the Olympics? Oh yeah, keep taxing the

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

[Don Rose](#) is a prominent Chicago political and communications consultant and commentator. His views are very influential in Chicago civic circles.

[NO-lympics for Me](#)

*By Don Rose
Chicago Daily Observer - August 17, 2009*

A few weeks back an old friend called to say he could get me \$25,000 from Very Important People if I would "blog in favor of the Olympics."

For those of you who may have been comatose in Central Waziristan for the past year or two, bringing the 2016 games to Chicago is something Mayor Daley wants more than oxygen itself.

"I am still agnostic on the Olympics," say I.

This friend is indeed close to the mayor, but rarely actually represents him in such dealings. He is also close to many wealthy developers.

Through the years this friend, with whom I occasionally cooperate on a political project, has tried to lure me over to the Dark Side, suggesting that this Daley or the preceding one would welcome me with open arms if only I would endorse or work for such and such a candidate. My sense always is that he is free-lancing these offers of municipal largesse rather than being a direct emissary, but I never know for sure because I never take him up on them.

citizens.

**Darla Brown
Chicago**

**Signer of No Games
online petition**

"Rose," says this friend, "forget agnostic. You are now old enough to sell out and nobody would blame you. I'm talking about \$25,000 cash, which is way more than you get for a lousy column."

"Is this a firm offer?" ask I.

"I'll go to those people and get back to you before you leave for Paris," says he.

Of course I never hear back. I am apparently not as saleable a commodity as I once may have been.

It is clear, however, that the mayor and his business confederates are spending a lot of money as well as much political capital buying up the opposition-- apparently even endorsing a sometimes reform alderwoman for the presidency of the Cook County Board in exchange for her switching from anti- to pro-games.

This is one of the reasons my agnosticism has morphed to antagonism. Daley Inc. just wants this thing too much, which is always a dangerous sign. (Whether a firm offer of that 25-large would have swayed me in the other direction is something strictly between my shrink and me.)

I admit I am not a big follower of Olympic sports, though I enjoy watching an occasional hour of gymnastics and the Dirty Old Man inside me sometimes sneaks a peek at women's beach volleyball.

I also love Chicago a lot, despite its political acne, and wouldn't mind having the world see it in a new light. Millennium Park, for example, is so wonderful I can almost forgive Daley his past sins.

But what I see more and more is the old non-Olympic game of Chicago-style political scam. Daley and his business crowd are in this for more than civic glory.

More like fun and profit at taxpayer expense, desecration of parklands and a stiff-arm to minority communities. (Most minority leadership, however, has been bought.)

Building the necessary infrastructure, housing and sports facilities--in effect one of Chicago's largest-ever public works projects--will be a fiscal Niagara for the development and hospitality crowd.

Why do you think they're so eager to put up the front money?



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[Open letter to the IOC:](#)
"Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"

One look at the planning map also shows the whole thing resembles several past boondoggles designed have the city pay for infrastructure along the south lakefront and stymie expanding black communities; the World's Fair, rejected by Harold Washington, was one. All of them were part of what we used to call "the master plan."

Here they go again.

Why do you suppose the master builders won't make all their records and proceedings public?
Would they show that private funding will not cover the multibillion-dollar deficits the games are sure to bring?

Daley says the city's financial commitment will be limited, but he won't permit a City Council ordinance to cap the amount of tax money we taxpayers will have to cover. He's been caught in several little fibs about exactly what long-term fiscal commitments he made to the International Olympic Committee.

Would it be too paranoid to suggest that Daley might have much more than personal grandeur at stake here?

He will not be mayor forever-maybe not after 2011, let alone 2015. Could this be a little retirement planning? Could all those fat-cats he will be enriching (and those already enriched) perhaps return the favor once he is out of office with all sorts of sinecures, consulting contracts and other comforts of old age?

Could this be an Olympian IRA--the Chicago way?

Email Marketing by





No Games Chicago Update

44 Days To Decision

Daily News

August 18, 2009

The People Speak

Chicago does not have the money or leadership to sponsor these games. The city cannot fix potholes on the streets. How can they sponsor the Olympic games? This is simply another opportunity for Daley and his cronies to make a load of money.

**Anne Haggerty
Chicago**

**Signer of
No Games
online petition**

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

The 2016 Committee continues to hold community meetings. The one last night in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood turned ugly because neighbors were protesting the increase in violence in their neighborhood. They were angry that the city is not spending enough money on crime prevention and youth services.

Yesterday was also the day the city shut down all non-essential services in order to save money.

People are getting angrier and angrier at the Mayor and the way Chicago is being managed.

[Uptown Residents Protest Violence](#)

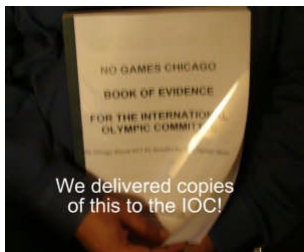
Fox News Chicago - August 17, 2009

Meetings like this are being held all over Chicago---in every neighborhood---to talk about the city's bid for the Olympic games in 2016. Chicago is a finalist but some people in tonight's crowd say the city has been playing games in Iptown for a long time, games with their safety.

Dozens of residents stood outside while that meeting took place. They say Chicago shouldn't be able to bid on the games because the city's streets aren't safe.

They say crime in Uptown is getting worse and the alderman of the 46th ward, Helen Schiller, isn't doing enough about it. Last week at the intersection of Leland and Sheridan, a neighbor caught a fight between rival gangs on camera.

"What are you going to do about bullet casings on the corner of Leland and Sheridan?" Joe Gray shot this video last Thursday and says this was the third night of fighting. He called police but says it took just as many calls to get them out on the scene. Over the weekend, Gray says he got a call from the Chicago Police Department about what he documented. Patrols on foot



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Open letter to the IOC: "Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"

and by car have increased but so far, he's says heard nothing from the alderman.

Gray says: "Alderwoman Schiller will just not show up for CAPS meetings."

Alderman Schiller did attend the city's 2016 meeting but got in through a side door. She wasn't so lucky going out. The crowd chanted: "Run away Helen. Run away."



Chicago shuts down to save money

BBC News - August 18, 2009

Public services in the US city of Chicago have been shut down for a day as the authorities face an expected budget shortfall of some \$300m (£184m). Non-essential services such as rubbish collections, libraries and health centres were closed, in the first of three planned reduced service days.

City authorities hope the move, with workers taking an enforced unpaid holiday, will save an estimated \$8.3m.

Other cities in the US have already introduced similar measures.

The savings from Chicago's reduced service days are small compared with the overall deficit.

But in a statement last week, Chicago's Mayor Richard M Daley thanked state employees for their "sacrifice".

"Every dollar we save from these measures helps to save jobs, and in the long-term, maintain service for Chicagoans," he said.

"This plan engages most civilian employees to accept cuts and to be part of the solution to our budget crisis."

Two more reduced service days have been scheduled - one for 27 November, the day after Thanksgiving and another for Christmas Eve, 24 December.

Workers have also been asked to take a series of unpaid days off and holidays without salary. Chicago is one of a number of US cities and states to introduce closures and furlough days to address deficits.

In California, which has a budget deficit of some \$24.3bn (£14.5bn) and has declared a fiscal emergency, state offices have been ordered to close for three days each month.

Michigan has said it will not pay its state employees on six days up to the end of September, to save nearly \$22m.

Email Marketing by





No Games Chicago Update

43 Days To Decision

Daily News

August 19, 2009

The People Speak

**We have the highest taxes in the nation!
Gentrification is rampant! Our public schools are a disgrace!
Few inches of rain and our streets flood! Public transportation is poor! And yet we have funds to host the Olympics.**

LET'S GET OUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT!!!!

**Maria Depp
Chicago**

**Signer of
No Games
online petition**

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

The Chicago Tribune is a conservative leaning newspaper owned by a billionaire real estate developer. It's been a consistent booster of the 2016 bid. But lately even it can't turn a blind eye to the deficiencies of the Chicago bid and the arrogance of its sponsors.

The advice the editors of the Chicago Tribune is offering the 2016 Committee will most likely be ignored. Meanwhile, Chicago's citizens are not as patient and trusting as the Tribune editors seem to be. They are showing up angry and very skeptical at the 2016 community meetings.

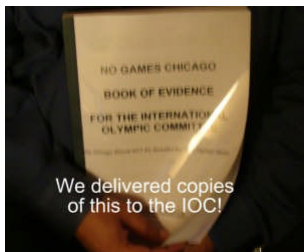
[Olympic candor](#)

August 19, 2009

Barely six weeks from now, the International Olympic Committee will select a city to host the 2016 Summer Games. Chicago's organizers, from Mayor Richard Daley on down, are a committed lot. On the streets, in workplaces and over kitchen tables, though, many citizens remain ambivalent. Would an Olympiad net out as a plus for this city -- or as a sinkhole of taxpayer debt?

Before Chicago organizers close their sale to the IOC, they need to close their sale to Chicagoans. The best way to do that is to shower Chicago in all of the financing details -- and to create a rock-solid protocol for sharing future information with citizens as well. That isn't too much to ask, given that there will be no Chicago Olympics unless the City Council obligates taxpayers to an open financial guarantee that the games will succeed. The city has already provided a \$500 million guarantee; the state has committed to \$250 million in the event the Games lose money.

With each new guarantee of public financing, the Chicago effort to land the Games becomes an increasingly public endeavor. We second Tribune business columnist David Greising's proposal to give citizens their own guarantee, a guarantee of openness: "The



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Open letter to the IOC: "Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"

City Council, before granting the unlimited financial guarantee, should demand that Chicago 2016 agree to honor requests for information, following the same openness guidelines as described in Illinois' freedom of information law. The committee should appoint a freedom-of-information officer, answerable to the City Council and responsible for complying with information requests, as government offices do. ... Openness should be the price of putting taxpayers on the hook for the 2016 Games."

That proposal builds on a precedent: Earlier this year, responding to public suspicions, Chicago's bid committee agreed to community demands for openness in awarding of Olympic contracts. Recent events have only reinforced the need for a culture of full disclosure:

--The Tribune reported Aug. 7 that a member of Daley's team working to land the Olympics was involved in plans to develop city-owned land near a park that would be a 2016 Olympic venue. Developer Michael Scott Sr., who serves as president of the Chicago Board of Education, now is severing his ties to the potentially quite profitable project. But the disclosure dovetailed with public suspicions that a 2016 Olympics would be a honey pot for political insiders.

--That news followed word that Chicago 2016 had delayed the filing of Internal Revenue Service documents on the financing of the Games until after the IOC announces its choice of a site. The committee says the City Council will have all of that information and more. So why not file the documents with the IRS before Oct. 2?

--The Tribune reported that street and sewer costs associated with the proposed Olympic Village would add \$100 million to the cost, bringing the total to \$1.18 billion. Does anyone think that surprise is the last?

Aldermen and citizens need to be confident that the Games will come off without the city taking a bath. Because if and when Daley signs an agreement in Copenhagen guaranteeing that Chicago will deliver the Olympics -- no matter the cost -- those aldermen and citizens will be sitting in the tub.

Our advice to Chicago 2016 head Pat Ryan as he tries to sell an Olympics to Chicago: Be candid. Be specific. Don't sugarcoat risk. And focus on the following:

Taxpayers' risk

This is the big question. Can the city be reasonably assured that the games can be staged without taking a big loss? You keep saying that every Olympics since 1972 has made money. Explain in detail why this is so -- and why Chicago's plans are solid.

Is it whom you know?

Underlying a lot of the public's uneasiness is the suspicion that contracts and jobs will go to the "connected" few, and everyone else will be left out in the cold. Lay out in detail your policies for

keeping clout and other illicit influences out of the action.

About that insurance policy

Tell us as much as you can about the \$500 million of private insurance you're working to arrange, and why you are confident it will insulate taxpayers from further liability. How will the insurance be structured? When would it kick in? Who's underwriting that risk? How much will it cost? Who resolves disputed claims? So far, there are no details.

It takes a village

Vancouver's 2010 Olympics got into trouble because the city awarded the Olympic Village contract to a single developer, which used a single lender, and they bet the ballgame on luxury condos just when the real estate bust hit. Village construction stalled and the city had to step up. Chicago proposes a village of 21 12-story buildings erected by multiple developers and multiple lenders, and a post-Olympic plan for a mixed-income residential and retail complex. So it won't rely on a single developer or lender. That's good, but more information on who is interested in participating would help assure Chicagoans they won't play the role of Vancouver in some future meltdown.

There are venues and there are venues

London's 2012 Games are way over budget. Explain why: London has to build 63 percent of its venues. Its games were always designed to boost the downtrodden East End; pollution remediation and European value-added taxes have made costs skyrocket. Chicago needs to build only five of 27 venues. It doesn't have to redevelop an entire swath of the city. It also doesn't have to build airports, train lines, subways or roads. Explain why you think McCormick Place is Chicago's "secret weapon": It exists; it's huge and it can host concurrent events.

The rosy scenario

At the City Council's insistence, Chicago 2016's \$4.8 billion budget is being independently scrubbed by a London-based consulting firm hired by the Civic Federation. That neutral analysis of Chicago 2016's budget, revenue and cost projections -- and that additional insurance policy -- could go a long way toward reassuring Chicagoans.

Finally: freedom of information

Mr. Ryan, you and yours would do yourselves a great favor by voluntarily making your committee, and the successor Chicago Organizing Committee, subject to the provisions of Illinois' freedom-of-information law. That would allay the fear that, once you have the City Council on board, Chicago citizens will lose their leverage to protect the huge commitment you're asking of them.



No Games Chicago Update

42 Days To Decision

Daily News

August 20, 2009

The People Speak

Chicago needs to focus all its monies and energies on improving its infrastructure and services for people who live here, not to fund the red herring that is the Olympics. Crime, schools, and housing will all be ignored apart from the most superficial fixes in order to throw money at bringing the Olympics here. I ask that, please, as a lifelong citizen, taxpayer, and someone who is deeply concerned for the future of this city, our leaders shift the focus to where it counts.!

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

There are a number of federal prosecutions under way that involve key members of the Chicago political establishment, including Alderman Ike Carothers, a key ally of Mayor Daley.

[Trial date set for Ald. Ike Carothers](#)

Chicago pol has been charged in zoning-for-bribes case
Comments

August 19, 2009 - NATASHA KORECKI Federal Courts Reporter - Sun-Times

A federal judge today set a March 8 trial date for indicted Chicago Ald. Ike Carothers (29th) and a wealthy developer, both accused of taking part in a zoning-for-bribes scheme. Prosecutors, meanwhile, plan to turn over evidence in the case to the defense today.

Carothers, an ally of Mayor Daley, and Chicago developer Calvin Boender have pleaded "not guilty" to the bribery and fraud charges.

Carothers had cooperated with the government since last year - cooperation that included wearing a wire to secretly record conversations. Carothers' lawyer, Larry Beaumont, said the alderman was waiting to review the evidence before deciding whether he'd fight the charges against him.

**Katherine Hannon
Chicago**

**Signer of
No Games
online petition**

Boender allegedly paid off Carothers as he sought zoning approval to redevelop a 50-acre former railyard and industrial site on the West Side into a residential and commercial neighborhood.

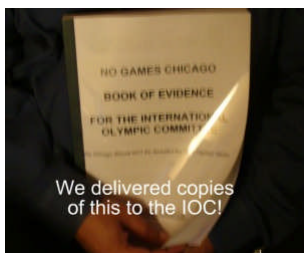
Prosecutors say the zoning change could have brought Boender \$3 million.

Michael Jackson's onetime attorney, Thomas Mesereau of Los Angeles, appeared in court for the first time today after signing on as Boender's attorney earlier this summer.



Here's what one reader commented:

"Ike's daddy served three years .. Maybe his son will follow in his footsteps... Check it out on wikipedia.. Ike and his brother Tony went around terrorizing people. Straight outta wikipedia....."



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[Open letter to the IOC:](#)
"Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"

In 1985, a federal judge ordered William Carothers, his two sons, and a fourth man to pay \$152,000 in damages for a campaign of physical violence and intimidation organized by William Carothers, from prison, against a political opponent. Independent incumbent Illinois State Representative Arthur Turner of the far west side 17th District was challenged in 1982 by William Carothers' former assistant, Ozzie Hitchins, who was supported by the then imprisoned William Carothers. Turner aides were threatened with guns and one Turner aide suffering severe injuries to the side of the head, including broken bones. At the time Isaac and his brother were both Cook County deputy sheriffs with access to guns. Turner and aides filed a civil lawsuit following their defeat by Hitchins. U.S. District Judge Charles Kocoras said Isaac Carothers appeared to be the ringleader and "organized their acts of intimidation" by force while the other son used his deputy's position to verbally threaten the plaintiffs. Isaac Carothers was ordered to pay \$25,000 of the damages.

And Tony Carothers was just given a merit promotion by..... Ike Carothers."



No Games Chicago Update

41 Days To Decision

Daily News

August 21, 2009

The People Speak

Mayor Daley, you can't run a city effectively - that's been proven. So I know for sure you can't pull this off without burdening the citizens of Chicago and the State of Illinois without further tax ramifications.

**Steve Crnkovich
Crystal Lake**

**Signer of
No Games
online petition**

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

We've told you that Illinois and Chicago are broke. The state and city are running rivers of red ink and [it's not projected to get better soon](#).

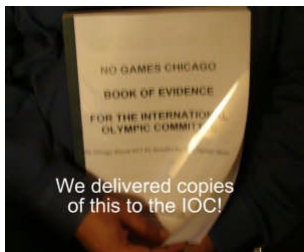
One of the most important components of our city is our public transit system which is operated by the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA). Our public transit system barely keeps up with the current needs of users. The systems need repairs, upkeep and expansion.

Unfortunately, these vital needs are being neglected.

[*Stranded at the Station: The Impact of the Financial Crisis in Public Transportation*](#) is the first systematic analysis of the conundrum faced by communities and their transit systems: Historic ridership and levels of demand for service, coupled with the worst funding crisis in decades.

According to a recent survey by the [AmericanPublic Transportation Association](#), state, regional and local funding for more than 80 percent of U.S. transit systems has remained flat or has fallen lately, and nearly 90 percent of those systems have had to raise fares or cut service. Nearly half have done both.

Chicago is at the top of this list of major U.S. city transit systems running deficits.



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Open letter to the IOC: "Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"

TOP 10 PROJECTED DEFICITS AS A PERCENTAGE OF OPERATING BUDGET

Table with 2 columns: Rank, City/Transit System, and Percentage. Lists top 10 cities: MARTA (Atlanta) 18%, Muni (San Francisco) 17%, MTA (New York) 14%, CTA (Chicago) 12%, DART (Dallas) 12%, WMATA (Washington, DC) 12%, MBTA (Boston) 11%, BART (San Francisco) 8%, Metro Transit (Minneapolis/St. Paul) 8%, TriMet (Portland, OR) 7%.

Source: "Stranded At The Station"

We know you place considerable weight to the candidate city's transit system in making your decision to award the games.

There are no concrete, real plans to improve our transit system. The 2016 Committee has been asked about their transit plans in many of the community meetings they've held over the past month. In every case they admit that their bid is based on existing infrastructure.

We hope you will take this into consideration when you make your decision on which city is most fit to host the 2016 Olympic Games.

Email Marketing by





No Games Chicago Update *40 Days To Decision* *Daily News*

August 22, 2009

The People Speak

Same ol' people gettin' overtime

Same ol' names makin' headlines

Same ol' crew stealin' from the kitty

Slitherin' snakes through departments of our city

Mayor Richie Daley tells us wrong from right

It's hard to do when he's on the next flight

He's hangin' out in Switzerland cuttin' big deals

Too much funny business here, everyone steals

Chicago Clout, Little Richie's getting richer

Chicago Clout, nothin' stays the same

Chicago Clout, there's never gonna be change

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

We've told you about the rampant corruption in Chicago politics. It's so widely known that a group of city workers as formed a band and recorded a song called "Chicago Clout Blues."



[They uploaded the video to YouTube where you can watch it.](#)

They've become an overnight sensation and they've been covered by the Chicago Tribune:

[Clout Meisters sing the 'Chicago Clout' blues City workers write, perform anti-Daley ditty](#)

August 22, 2009

After fighting City Hall for more than a decade, city worker Patrick McDonough has the blues -- the "Chicago Clout" blues.

So, when you turn
around a new scandal is
brewin'

Daley knows nothin', it's
none of his doin'

Now I have to move out,
my taxes too high

Daley don't care, "Let
the middle class fry!"

And why should we
change? Everything is so
good

Who cares if kids are
gettin' shot in the 'hood?

We're cuttin' deals for
our family and our
friends

2016 is when the world's
gonna end!

Chicago Clout, Little
Richie's gettin' richer

Chicago Clout, nothin'
seems to change

Chicago Clout, it all
stays the same

**Lyrics of "Chicago Clout
Blues" by the Clout
Meisters**

McDonough, a self-professed whistle-blower in the city's Hired Truck scandal, and Chicago Park District music instructor Emery Joe Yost are the creators of a catchy little ditty about their beef with Chicago politics.

"Either you accept what they give you or you keep fighting to try and change what they're doing," said McDonough, a city plumber and investigator and longtime critic of Mayor Richard Daley. "I've been banging away for a very long time, and I think I've gotten very good at it."

Earlier this year, McDonough decided he needed a tune for his blog, ChicagoClout.com, where he documents his complaints and opinions about the city. So he approached Yost, a 30-year friend, for his help in creating something "sad, dramatic, beaten-down," McDonough said. Yost, who wrote the music and collaborated with McDonough on the lyrics, nailed it, McDonough said.

The song is performed by Yost, John Bernardi, Eric McCabe and Phillip Garifuna -- known as the Clout Meisters. (McCabe is employed by Chicago Public Schools; Bernardi and Garifuna do not work for the city.) And their work has become a local sensation.

"It's insane," said Yost, who added that decades of watching overtime and promotions go only to the politically connected have pushed him to speak -- or, rather, sing -- out. "When we wrote this song, we didn't write it for one specific scenario," he said. "We wrote it for all the scenarios combined."



[Watch the Clout Meisters on CBS News!](#)



No Games Chicago Update

39 Days To Decision

Daily News

August 23, 2009

The People Speak

Politicians have our State screwed up enough. All areas of our government are in bad shape and we are taxed to the limit right now. We don't need or want more taxes to pay for the Games (and many of us believe that will happen-regardless of what our politicians are saying). Chicago can't even meet it's payrolls now and has to force employees into days off with no pay! No games here with the economy in as bad shape as it is - no way. Japan wants them - let them have them.

**Anonymous
Montgomery, IL**

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

The 2016 Committee has been taking its case to the neighborhoods of Chicago on an almost daily basis since July 8. As we've been reporting to you, this has been a very bumpy ride. Today, the Chicago Sun-Times gives a fair summary of how the process has unfolded.



[Selling the Games, a ward at a time](#)

'16 OLYMPICS | Promoters seeking residents' support and input are getting an earful

August 23, 2009 - LISA DONOVAN Idonovan@suntimes.com

As it has at times in recent weeks, a community meeting about Chicago's bid to host the 2016 Summer Olympics soon veered off into a heated discussion about other things.

Affordable housing. Jobs. Crime.

An upset Mark Carter, 35, stood in the audience and demanded

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**[Open letter to the IOC:](#)
"Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"**

that Mayor Daley's Olympic bid team, assembled on the dais, set aside some of the projected 310,000 jobs -- some temporary, others permanent -- expected to be created by the Olympic Games for North Lawndale residents. He also asserted that the beleaguered West Side community wasn't getting the help it needed because "the alderman sold us out."

First-term Ald. Sharon Denise Dixon (24th), standing next to the audience, didn't hold back.

"Shut up," she told Carter, who ran against her in the last election. "I'm an alderman, not a miracle worker."

This week, the Chicago 2016 Olympic organizing committee winds up a series of community meetings dubbed "50 wards in 50 days" -- a sprint to sell the Olympics to the public, even as criticism has built this summer over Daley's surprise announcement that he'll sign the standard Olympic host-city contract, putting taxpayers on the hook for any losses if the city ends up hosting the 2016 Games and the city's rosy financial predictions don't come true.

Chicago is competing to host the Olympics against finalist cities Madrid, Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo. The International Olympic Committee will meet Oct. 2 in Copenhagen and announce the winner.

Each city is required to sign the contract -- an open-ended agreement to pay for any losses the Games might incur.

The Olympic bid team's refrain at the community meetings has been that "not a single tax dollar has been spent on the Games" and that the \$4.8 billion Olympic plan will be bankrolled by private donations.

The bid team has also said the Games here would make money, generating a \$450 million surplus.

But so-called "tax-increment financing" dollars will be used in the planned Olympic Village on the South Side, and the safety net for the Games includes a state guarantee of \$250 million, and a "last-resort" \$500 million in taxpayer money from the City of Chicago.

Olympic organizers say that in the unlikely event the Games end up losing money, they'd have to burn through millions in privately purchased insurance before touching public dollars.

Chicago 2016 has organized more than 400 community meetings since 2007, according to a spokesman for the organization.

But these last sessions are particularly crucial, as aldermen gear up for a vote that would give the mayor the green light to formally sign the host-city contract.

If history is any predictor, the mayor will get what he wants -- and he wants the Olympics. But the meetings were organized so city residents could ask questions and weigh in before the vote.

Chicago 2016 President Lori Healey told the 350 people assembled for the kick-off meeting at the McKinley Park field

house on the Southeast Side that their support was crucial to winning the Games.

"We can't do it alone," Healey said. "The IOC does not want to give the Olympic Games to a city whose residents don't want it. We will lose this race without your support."

Well-versed in "the Chicago way," people attending the meeting wanted to know what's in it for them. A mother asked whether there would be money to open a bowling alley in Austin. Another city resident, who attended the St. Xavier University meeting on the Far South Side, wanted to know why there was so much fuss about winning the Summer Olympics when the city's focus should be on stopping the violence that's ravaging some communities.

Patrick Ryan, Chicago 2016's chief executive officer, answered: "Let me say that we can't, as the Olympic organizing committee, impact [social] problems. We all suffer with that emotionally."

Email Marketing by





No Games Chicago Update

38 Days To Decision

Daily News

August 24, 2009

The People Speak

Please withdraw Chicago's bid to host the Olympics. No matter how it is spun, the Olympics being here will displace the poor, trample civil liberties, and cost the city billions, which we will be paying for for generations. Don't let it happen!

**Corinne Westing
Chicago**

**Signer of
No Games
online petition**

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

The veracity of Chicago's 2016 leadership comes under renewed criticism today in Crain's Chicago Business, our premier business news weekly.

[Daley's Olympian stretch](#)

By: John Pletz - August 24, 2009

Mayor Richard M. Daley's prediction that the 2016 Olympics would give Chicago's economy a \$22.5-billion boost vastly overstates the likely benefits of hosting the games, experts say.

"That's crazy," says Victor Matheson, a professor of economics at College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts who has studied the economic impact of the Olympics. "Anyone using this \$22.5-billion number as justification to vote for the Olympics is being led down the garden path."

The figure far exceeds estimated benefits in forecasts prepared by other cities that have sought the games. Atlanta, for example, figured the games it hosted in 1996 would produce an economic jolt of just \$7 billion in 2009 dollars.

Similarly, the Chicago Olympics bid committee's prediction that the 2016 games would create 315,000 jobs over 11 years is more than four times the jobs estimate for Atlanta.

Chicago's bid committee is touting the \$22.5-billion figure as it tries to rally support for the 2016 games and persuade the City Council to approve a blanket guarantee of Olympics expenses. Mr. Daley's estimate of likely costs - \$4.8 billion, including construction - already has been called into question. If projected benefits appear unrealistic, the council would have another reason to reject the guarantee when it votes next month.

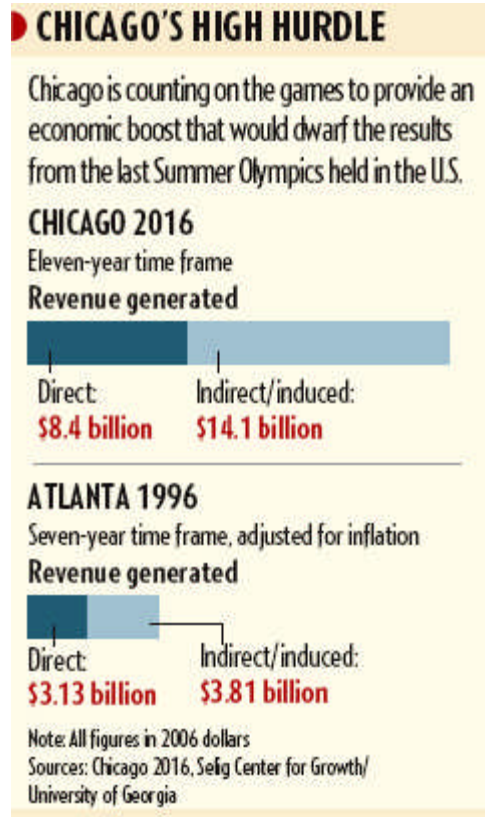
Economic benefits of the 2016 games are more likely to range between \$11 billion and \$17 billion, based on the analysis of economists who question two key assumptions underlying the



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Open letter to the IOC: "Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"

Chicago 2016 committee's estimate. The committee's economic study predicts a tourism boom following the games, something other host cities didn't see. And it applies an unusually high "multiplier" effect to Olympics-related spending. The forecast predicts the 2016 Olympics will generate \$8.4 billion in direct spending, more than twice the \$3.1 billion forecast in Atlanta. Some \$7 billion of the Chicago 2016 figure represents tourism spending during and after the games.



The committee predicts attendance in 2016 would exceed Atlanta's by 48%, owing to the increase in the number of events and larger venues. Economist Sanjay Varshney of California State University, Sacramento, who co-authored the committee's forecast, says that's one reason for the high tourism spending figure. Another is Chicago 2016's prediction that the city will see a \$1.9-billion rise in tourism revenue in the five years after the games. Committee Chairman Patrick Ryan frequently points to Australia's increase in tourism after the 2000 games in Sydney, saying the number of international visitors passing through the city's airport has risen 25% since then.

But an expected \$2.2-billion boost in tourism spending during the five years after the games "never materialized" for Sydney, says economist John Madden of Monash University in Melbourne, Australia.

Dennis Tootelian, of Sacramento State, the other co-author of Chicago 2016's report, stands by his prediction: "When you take a look at the press the last Olympics received, that opens markets internationally. Over time, tourism should grow as the exposure grows."

Without the post-Olympics tourism boost, direct spending predicted for the Chicago games would slip to \$6.5 billion. The follow-on impact of that direct spending is another area where economists say Chicago 2016 goes too far.

The committee predicts a "multiplier" effect of 2.67, or \$1.67 in additional spending for every dollar in direct Olympics spending. That's far higher than the 2.2 multiplier used in Atlanta's forecast for the 1996 games and the 1.68 figure that Washington, D.C., used in connection with its bid for the 2012 games.

"Typically, anything over 2 is pretty questionable," says Scott Watkins, a consultant at Anderson Economic Group LLC, a Lansing, Mich.-based firm that studies the impact of sporting events and expects to release next month an economic impact forecast for a Chicago Olympics.

Mr. Varshney and other economists note that multiplier effects are often higher in larger metropolitan areas like Chicago with economies big and diverse enough to absorb more follow-on spending locally. Mr. Tootelian says the multiplier is dictated by data fed into ImPlan, a frequently used economic-forecasting software program. "We don't set it."

Even economist who use ImPlan question the 2.67 multiplier. "I'm not sure how you get an induced impact that large," says Richard Clinch, a researcher at the University of Baltimore who co-authored the Washington forecast.

Mr. Tootelian dismisses questions about the proper multiplier, saying, "Even if it is 2, we're talking almost \$17 billion in economic impact."

Predicting the economic effect of a future event is inherently speculative, but \$17 billion is 24% less than Chicago 2016 says the games would inject into the local economy. And if the 1.68 multiplier used by D.C. is applied to the \$6.5 billion economists consider a more realistic direct spending estimate, the benefits of the games would be \$10.9 billion, less than half the committee's projection.

Similarly, the committee's forecast of 315,000 jobs over the 11-year period starting in 2011 is eye-popping compared to Atlanta and Washington, which estimated 77,000 and 70,000, respectively.

Mr. Matheson of Holy Cross says a study he conducted with Lake Forest College economics professor Robert Baade found that the Atlanta games actually created about 42,000 jobs at most.

"The Olympics in Chicago would be cool," Mr. Matheson says. "But don't expect them to make you rich."

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No Games Chicago Update

37 Days To Decision

Daily News

August 25, 2009

The People Speak

NO OLYMPICS IN CHICAGO - NOT IN 2016, NOT EVER. With budgeted deficits running more than 450 Millions for the schools, the highest sales tax rate in the nation, an 11.5 trillion dollar deficit for the State of Illinois and only God knows what the true deficit is for the City itself because Dailey keeps selling assets, we do not need, and we do not want this added financial burden.

NO OLYMPICS, NO WAY, NOT IN 2016, NOT EVER!

Bruce Barnes

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

The 2016 Committee continues to come under withering fire from the local press. Here are two items from yesterday.

[Olympic Bid Running Ragged](#) Chicago losing steam as facts emerge

By STEVE RHODES - NBC News Online



The home stretch for Chicago's 2016 Olympic bid looks about as promising as the Cubs winning their division.

The local organizing effort is springing leaks in every direction. Emergency ward meetings designed to quell unrest over the about the taxpayer liability aren't working.

"People are just not buying into the spin coming out," Stephen Alexander, a senior research fellow at DePaul University's Egan Urban Center, [tells the Tribune](#).

Alexander has attended several of the ward meetings and played witness to aggressive questioning from citizens and disingenuous answers from Olympic officials.

Some residents are also unhappy that the ward meetings are

Chicago

Signer of No Games online petition

happening now -- as an obvious attempt at damage control -- instead of early on.

"Wouldn't it have made a lot more sense to have all these meetings last year or the year before or the year before to get all this out before we had to sign a host-city contract that will obligate to us to anything the IOC committee wants?" Joan Levin, a member of [No-Games Chicago](#), asked at one ward meeting, according to the Trib.

Last week AFP reported that the Chicago effort was losing momentum while Rio was on the move. A source told the news agency that officials behind the Chicago bid had alienated IOC members who had previously been on their side. A large chunk of the blame has been laid at the feet of the United States Olympic Committee, which recently pulled a controversial broadcast plan off the table to appease the IOC, but the damage might not be repaired in time - and trust retained - for Chicago to win its bid.



- [And Crain's reports](#) what close observers have known for a long time but the media is only now examining: that Mayor Daley's claims of a \$22.5 billion economic boost from hosting the Summer Games is pure fantasy.



"That's crazy," Holy Cross professor Victor Matheson, who has studied the economic impact of the Games, told Crain's. "Anyone using this \$22.5 billion number as justification to vote for the Olympics is being led down a garden path."

Truly, this bid feels like its in reverse. A well-oiled machine at the outset is turning ragged at the finish line. That's what happens when folks finally start asking questions; sometimes the truth emerges.

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Steve Rhodes is the proprietor of The Beachwood Reporter, a Chicago-centric news and culture review.

[Greising: Olympic Secrecy "Doesn't Smell Very Good"](#)

[Open letter to the IOC:](#)

"Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"

Josh Kalven on August 24, 2009 - Progress Illinois

This month, Tribune business columnist David Greising has written two pieces urging more disclosure on the part of Chicago's Olympic bid committee and, in doing so, spurred a lengthy editorial from his paper on the topic. On Friday, he appeared on Chicago Tonight's "Week in Review" show to discuss the games and continued to push back against the committee's assurances that they are being "open and transparent." [Watch it \(full video here\)](#):



GRIESING: It's interesting. I've talked to people at the Olympic committee -- Chicago 2016 -- and they all believe that they've been the most open and transparent group that has ever been seen in the face of the Olympic movement.

And yet, a few weeks away, 40-some days away from the October 2 vote, we still don't know who these insurance companies are that are supposed to be backing -- guaranteeing the bid. We have no idea who any of the developers are of the Olympic Village. The guarantee they're looking for -- the unlimited guarantee from the city -- we don't know much about.

We've had a little bit of corruption -- not corruption, conflicts of interest pop up with this Michael Scott -- this Olympic committee member who is involved in a development near the village.

It's just all kind of stirring around and it doesn't smell very good to longtime Chicagoans.

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No Games Chicago Update

36 Days To Decision

Daily News

August 26, 2009

The People Speak

"If you can get that money together for a stupid Olympics, you can take that money and put more police on the street."

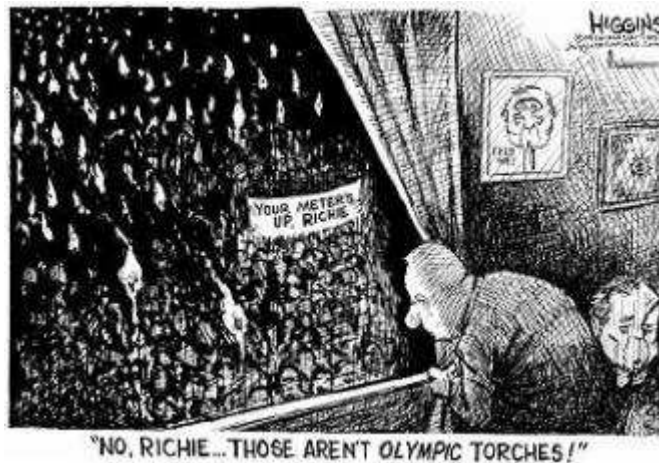
Judith Rodgers
Chicago

Speaking to Mayor Daley at a public forum on Chicago's 2010 budget at the South Shore Cultural Center
August 25

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

It's been a VERY rough few days for Mayor Daley. He appeared at a public meeting on our 2010 budget last night on the City's South Side. Many angry citizens demanded to know why essential city service continue to be cut back while he pursues his dream of bringing the 2016 Olympics to Chicago.

Here are just a few of the stories covering his troubled administration.



[Here's a gem from our public radio station's coverage of the hearing.](#) "The mayor didn't answer that - or most - questions directly, instead asking his staff to meet people individually. A handful of speakers brought up the city's 2016 Olympic bid - almost all, like Judith Rodgers, opposed to it. RODGERS: If you can get that money together for a stupid Olympics, you can take that money and put more police on the street."

[You can listen to this short clip by using the Evoca player by clicking here.](#)





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[Open letter to the IOC:](#)
"Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"

Mayor culpa: Daley catches an earful at public hearing

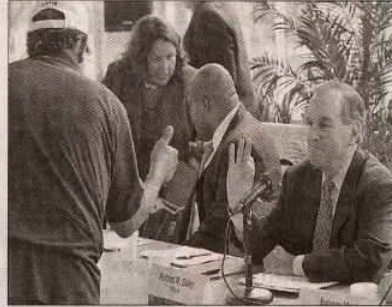
BY MAUDLYNE IHEJIRIKA

Staff Reporter
mihejirika@suntimes.com

Keep city mental health centers open. Expand foreclosure outreach programs. Increase funding for youth jobs and mentoring. Fix giant sinkholes. And dump Jody Weis.

Those were among the litany of suggestions — and demands — Mayor Daley received Tuesday night at the first public hearing on his 2010 preliminary budget that's marked by a \$520 million shortfall.

"You promised us in April



Mayor Daley attends a public hearing Tuesday night at the South Shore Cultural Center. He admitted the city botched the privatization of parking meters. | DOM NAJDLIA-SUN-TIMES

[Click to read article](#)

Mayoral 'apology' is really a snow job

8-26-09
Mayor Richard Daley has made so many apologies for his whopping parking meter rate increase fiasco that he's finally confused the heck out of me.

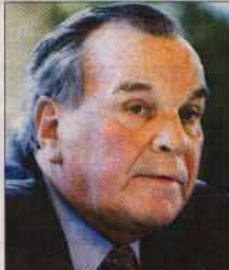
This week, he leaked an apology but it wasn't really an apology at all, and later he said he had already apologized months ago, so there. The man is a political genius.

Now, I've heard virtually every Daley almost-apology in history, including all the times he almost promised that his family and cronies

wouldn't make fortunes from public deals. Who can forget that first dramatic almost-apology when, with trembling lips and quivering cheeks, he apologized for telling African-Americans living in Chicago public housing



John Kass



Mayor Richard Daley discusses parking-meter problems Tuesday night, but he doesn't apologize for the lease. CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE PHOTO

spend 36 quarters to park for two hours downtown, and pay increased

This week, with so much anger still bubbling over the parking deal, and with folks upset about the Olympics that they don't really want, City Hall handlers figured it was time for an apology tour. Again.

So they leaked it as "news" to another newspaper, which ran an "exclusive" story headlined "Meter Culpa" about the mayoral apology that was to be offered Tuesday night at a public budget meeting in the South Shore neighborhood.

Cool.

Except for two things.

He didn't apologize Tuesday night in his opening remarks, as advertised.

And asked about it earlier Tuesday, Daley acted as if it was no big deal. He said he'd apologized months ago. "Well, I think... well, I apologized before," Daley said. "It's very interesting. I said financial data was good. We sold [the parking meters] at a high—you could never sell it today. You could never lease it today. The problem is the implementation. I said

[Click to read article](#)



Mayor Richard Daley listens to residents' concerns at a budget hearing Tuesday night in the South Shore Cultural Center. CHRIS WRENN/TRIBUNE PHOTO

Daley parks apology

Mayor also deflects residents' criticism on Olympics, crime

By Dan Mihalopoulos
TRIBUNE REPORTER

Mayor Richard Daley fielded complaints about crime, the city's Olympics bid and the parking-meter controversy Tuesday night during a packed public hearing on the South Side, but he offered little direct response to his critics.

In a short speech that was received with a mixture of cheers and jeers, Daley defended his oft-criticized deal to lease the city's parking meters to a private company. He called it a financial boon for the city but said "the implementation has not gone as well from the city's side."

"I know that, you know that,"



Resident Melvin Slater seeks financial details not in the preliminary 2010 budget, such as the amount paid to settle lawsuits against police.

"Why should people who I medical health problems suffer cause the administration screw up?" she asked Daley. "I want answer right now."

Daley sat stone-faced for six seconds as many in the studio yelled for him to reply. Finally, city budget director said the he commissioner, who sat at the table with other members of Mayor's Cabinet, would address question. But he did not immediately answer, and Slater was from the microphone.

Melvin Slater, one of dozens signed up to speak, pressed financial details that the city not released as part of the preliminary budget, such as the amount paid to settle lawsuits against police.

[Click to read article](#)

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No Games Chicago Update

35 Days To Decision

Daily News

August 27, 2009



Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

The unfavorable publicity for the 2016 Committee and its work continues today with the release of the [Civic Federation's review of the 2016 bid financing](#). This review was ordered by the City Council and was directed by the Civic Federation, an independent good government group. The Civic Federation hired L.E.K. Consulting to do the actual research.

[Olympic 'real estate risks'](#)

Athletes' village could be financial drain, consultant says

Chicago Sun-Times

August 26, 2009 - FRAN SPIELMAN and LISA DONOVAN

Chicago's \$4.8 billion operating budget for the 2016 Summer Olympic Games provides "adequate protection" for taxpayers, but the \$1.1 billion Olympic Village exposes the city to "ongoing real estate risks" that must be insured and closely managed, the Civic Federation has concluded.

The Civic Federation and its handpicked consultant, L.E.K. Consulting of London, conducted a six-week review of Chicago's Olympic bid at the City Council's request after the furor caused by Mayor Daley's pledge to match the full government guarantee promised by rival cities -- and Chicago 2016 Chairman Pat Ryan's decision to keep aldermen in the dark about it.

Today, the study was hand-delivered to aldermen, who are expected to vote next month on whether to authorize Daley to sign the blank-check promise.

The report recommends that:

- * the Olympic Organizing Committee that replaces Chicago 2016 be led by a "professional and experienced management team" that selects employees and contractors "based on non-political criteria."

- * The City Council ride herd over the games by mandating

The People Speak

I oppose the Olympics coming to Chicago. We have a great city that needs a lot of work to make it livable for all citizens. The time and money devoted to hosting and promoting the Olympics is misspent. The true priorities should be quality of life, safety, education, environment and jobs.

**Karen Harlander
Chicago**

**Signer of No Games
Chicago
online petition**



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**Open letter
to the IOC:**

**"Why you don't want
to give the Olympics
to Chicago"**

"regular reports."

*That insurance coverage designed to limit the contribution from Chicago taxpayers to the \$500 million the City Council has already pledged include "capital replacement insurance" for the Olympic Village to be built on the campus of Michael Reese hospital. "If developers proceed with the village as planned and are not required to buy the insurance, then taxpayers could be exposed to risk," the report states, noting that Chicago 2016 has a \$68.3 million insurance budget.

"It is critically important that aldermen provide legislative oversight to ensure the Organizing Committee is sticking to the detailed plan laid out by the Bid Committee," said Civic Federation President Laurence Msall.

"Some of the greatest risk ... does not come from the plan itself, but from not following the plan."

The report reveals that the city expects to spend \$122 million on direct city services during the games, including police, fire and emergency services, however, public safety expenses would be reimbursed by the federal government. City costs after federal help are estimated at \$41 million. Those costs would be covered by revenues generated by the amusement tax assessed on ticket sales and some sales taxes tacked on to Olympic concessions and merchandise.

[Civic Fed OKs 2016 cost forecast - except for Olympic Village](#)

By John Pletz - Crain's Chicago Business - Aug. 26, 2009

The Civic Federation has come out with a report that generally concurs with Mayor Richard M. Daley's budget projections for the 2016 Olympics - with the exception of the development of the Olympic Village. In a highly anticipated report, the tax-policy group said that "the operating budget, including venue construction, proposed by (Chicago) 2016 is fair and reasonable." But it warns that the Olympic Village, which would house athletes if Chicago gets the games, exposes the city to "continuing real estate risks that must be managed." The report recommends that the city purchase additional insurance to protect against cost overruns on the \$1-billion project.

See related story: "[The next Olympic land mine](#)"

Patrick Ryan, CEO of the bid committee called the report "very gratifying." "We've been working on it for over three-and-half years, and they came out with the conclusion confirming what we've been saying all along," Mr. Ryan said.

While the Civic Federation found the projected \$3.8-billion operating budget "fair and reasonable," it warned that several of the mayor's estimates of how much revenue the games would generate are "optimistic compared with previous games."

Civic Federation President Laurence Msall said the Olympic

Village project presents the greatest risk in the bid because it's the most expensive project and relies on private developers. Last month, the city paid \$86 million for the Near South Side land under what used to be Michael Reese Hospital. The intention is to sell the land to a private developer that would build the Olympic Village if Chicago lands the 2016 Summer Games, or turn it into private housing if Chicago is outbid.

Vancouver and London, hosts of the 2010 and 2012 Olympics, respectively, have had to step in with public money for Olympic housing projects when private funding dried up during the global recession.

Chicago 2016 told the Civic Federation that it has identified a relatively new class of insurance, called capital-replacement coverage, that would cover a financial shortfall on the part of developers.

Mr. Msall says such coverage costs about \$17 million per \$250 million of coverage, and the bid committee is contemplating about \$2 billion worth of coverage. That would cost Chicago 2016 \$137 million.

The Civic Federation's report says that such insurance - along with other policies the city plans to buy to cover everything from event liability to default by corporate sponsors - should be sufficient to shield taxpayers from financial risk, but only if Chicago 2016 sticks to its current financial plan.

"Much of the protection planned by the 2016 committee requires the purchase of insurance," Mr. Msall said. "That insurance is not yet available until it's determined whether Chicago gets the bid or not. That is the role where the City Council has to step forward with oversight."

Such insurance will increase the amount of private donations the Olympic committee will have to raise to \$269 million to \$287 million. Previously, the bid committee expected it would have to raise \$246 million to cover previously identified construction-fund shortfalls.

The group's report comes in advance of the City Council's vote on whether to authorize a host city contract. The contract means the city would have unlimited financial liability for hosting and planning the games, a move drawing sharp criticism at a time when Chicago faces a growing budget shortfall.

Some have slammed Mr. Daley for going back on his word that no public dollars would be used for the event. The host-city guarantee is set to be presented to the City Council's Finance Committee on Sept. 8, followed by a full council vote Sept. 9.

Aldermen asked the Civic Federation to undertake the review, which was performed by London-based LEK Consulting and cost more than \$100,000. Mr. Msall said the analysis was paid for largely with donations from private groups such as the MacArthur Foundation, the Joyce Foundation and the Chicago

Community Trust.

The International Olympic Committee requires bid cities to sign the host city contract. Chicago is competing against Tokyo, Madrid and Rio de Janeiro. The IOC will announce the host city on Oct. 2.

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No Games Chicago Update

34 Days To Decision

Daily News

August 28, 2009

The People Speak

Please award the 2016 Olympic games to a city other than Chicago. Awarding them to Chicago could well damage the Olympic brand by inspiring contempt for the games. Here is my reasoning.

Chicago now runs a deep deficit. It can hardly afford the games. Organizers of the Chicago bid recently toured the city in an attempt to build up support for the Chicago bid among people other than city employees and contractors. During that tour, one of the organizers admitted that Chicago could afford the games only by appropriating city parks for the purpose. We are so poor we have to take opportunities for recreation away from

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

The unfavorable publicity for the 2016 Committee and its work continues today following the release of the [Civic Federation's review of the 2016 bid financing](#). This review was ordered by the City Council and was directed by the Civic Federation, an independent good government group. The Civic Federation hired L.E.K. Consulting to do the actual research.

David Greising is the business reporter for the Chicago Tribune.

RACE FOR THE 2016 GAMES

[Chicago's 2016 Olympics bid: Deeper look shows potential financial pitfalls](#)

David Greising - August 28, 2009

The Chicago 2016 Olympics committee is determined for Chicago to host the Games, come hell or high water.

But Chicagoans, who are being asked to guarantee the Games, need to worry about what will happen if we get both hell and high water.

The Civic Federation gave a remarkably robust go-ahead to the Olympics bid on Wednesday. The financial watchdog group's president, Laurence Msall, stepped before microphones in City Hall and declared that the Chicago 2016 projection of a \$451 million financial surplus is "fair and reasonable."

Everyone expects Chicago 2016 to puff up the potential of their Summer Games. By the same token, there are people with every bit as strong a motivation to take a careful look at how much it would cost if things go terribly, financially wrong.

For such worrywarts, a close read of the Civic Federation report reinforces their skepticism of all this Olympics hoopla.

citizens.

Appropriating city parks for up to two years, parks that are now regularly used by Chicagoans, will undoubtedly generate resentment and contempt for the Olympics. For instance, the planned tennis venue near my home requires the construction of a tennis stadium in a heavily trafficked area of the park.

This confiscation of park land will obstruct and prevent the use of 4 baseball fields, 16 tennis courts, a lovely stand of trees, a parking lot for golfers and a picnic area as well as be perilously close to a prized area for migratory birds. To simultaneously anger golfers, ball players, tennis players, bird lovers, and casual park users is quite a large gaffe.

Security and construction required for the construction (2 years) will also close a path by the area, a path that now carries continual traffic of bicycle riders, joggers, and walkers. What a blunder! What a blunder to displace so many athletes in the name of promoting athletics. I for one resent it.

Take a careful look at Msall's report, and one can only wonder: Did he read the darn thing?

For starters, there is that problematic graph that shows a variety of potential shortfalls that add up to \$864 million in red ink. That's enough to wipe out the Olympic committee's projected budget surplus and then some.

We're not talking doomsday scenarios, either. Between now and the Games, a mere 1 percent difference in the annual growth rate of sponsorship revenue adds up to a \$234 million shortfall. A 10 percent increase in construction costs would lop \$146 million from the budgeted surplus, not that construction projects in Chicago ever go over budget.

Other assumptions and projects not delineated on the graph further compound the sense of risk. Naming rights figure prominently in the Chicago 2016 budget: \$15.7 million for the velodrome and another \$19 million for two facilities, the rowing and shooting venues.

In other words, the bid committee expects revenue that approximates the most lucrative naming deal in sports: slapping Citibank's name on the New York Mets' new stadium at a cost of \$20 million a year. Chicago's most lucrative deal to date, for U.S. Cellular Field, nets all of \$3.4 million a year.

Employee benefits are budgeted at 25 percent of salary, when the going rate in Chicago is 30 percent, the report notes. The cost difference? Some \$25.5 million.

The bid committee budgets \$9 million in outside legal costs. That may sound like a lot, but it's less than one-third the estimate of the bid committee's own legal department, which pegged the cost at between \$25 million and \$40 million.

Much is made of all the insurance to be taken out to cover any budget shortfalls. The bid committee boasts plans to secure \$1 billion in various policies, on top of the \$500 million city guarantee and \$250 million in state backing.

"We talk about it as 'belt and suspenders' protection," said Rick Ludwig, chief financial officer of the Chicago bid. The sort of shortfalls spelled out by the Civic Federation would happen only in a "perfect storm," he added.

Here's what the bid committee doesn't talk much about: The insurance would not cover a great many of the shortfalls laid out in the Civic Federation report. The insurance is meant to cover major disasters: cancellation of the Olympics, for example, or a sponsor's bankruptcy.

The worst likely will not happen. The Games likely are not headed for financial disaster. If professionally managed, with careful oversight and a little luck, chances are the Chicago Olympics can succeed.

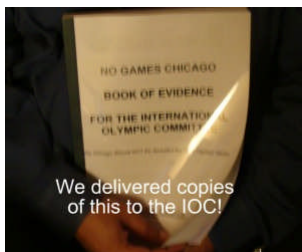
But in guaranteeing the Games -- unequivocally, without limit,

An old Chicago saying about corruption goes, "Chicago ain't ready for reform." It also ain't ready to host the games.

I would appreciate it if you could convey my message to the members of the IOC. Ask them to vote for a city other than Chicago.

William M. Kudlaty
Chicago

come hell or high water -- that's a chance Chicago taxpayers are being asked to take.



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[Open letter to the IOC:](#)



No Games Chicago Update *33 Days To Decision* *Daily News*

August 29, 2009



Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

Sometimes a simple letter to the editor from an average citizen is worth more than all the reporting and editorializing that we have been sending you.

This letter appeared in the Chicago Tribune yesterday.



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[Open letter to the IOC:](#)
"Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"



[The city that furloughs](#)

August 28, 2009

"The city that works" is what Richard J. Daley dubbed Chicago. How sad would he have been to have seen our recent "reduced-service" day, with all but emergency services closed to Chicago's taxpayers and citizens.

Can we have any better example of the abject fiscal failure his son Richard M. has been as mayor than these reduced-service days? They show us that it's obviously a lot easier being mayor when the cash is flowing in during market and real estate bubbles.

However, it's quite another thing to be prepared for the times when those days have ended. After all, isn't that what we elect a mayor for, to make such preparations that would allow city services to continue during the bad times as well as during the good?

But, the history of the second Daley administration has never been one of preparations. It has been a history of do it on the fly, grab the quick buck, plug the hole in the dike and pray.

An example is taking cents on the dollar for parking meter or airport deals and then patting yourself on the back for your ingenuity.

Right now, the only long-term plan Mayor Daley seems to have, for anything, is Olympics, Olympics, Olympics.

What we do to pay for the needs of Chicago's citizens, between 2016 and now, though, no one seems to know, especially Richard M. Daley.

Most insulting is that the \$25 million in TIF funds Daley just gave away to United Airlines, from Chicago taxpayers' pockets, to move into the unblighted Willis Tower, would have paid to keep city workers working all three of this year's scheduled reduced-service days, three times over.

-- Walter R. Kowalczyk, Chicago

Email Marketing by





No Games Chicago Update

32 Days To Decision

Daily News

August 30, 2009

The People Speak

Olympic losses

Why don't we put the cost of any anticipated and/or realized loss from the Olympics on the people and corporations that stand to gain from them? Build into any contracts a clause that attaches a percentage of the value of the contract as a bond to offset any loss suffered by the City of Chicago. This should occur with any contract with a value greater than \$10,000. This would shield small suppliers (if there were to be any this small).

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

The unfavorable publicity for the 2016 Committee and its work comes from a wide range of sources and points of view.

[Ray Hanania](#) writes columns analyzing Middle East issues that are distributed internationally. Winner of three Lisagor Award for Column Writing, Hanania was also named Best Ethnic American Columnist by the New America Media in November of 2007. He also hosts a daily radio show and maintains several [public affairs blogs](#).

He has criticized Mayor Daley and the 2016 Committee for discrimination against the city's extensive Arab-American community.

[Click here](#) or on the image to watch his commentary.

**Rosanne Barrett
Northfield**

Letter to the Editor
Chicago Tribune
August 30, 2009



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[Open letter to the IOC:](#)
"Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"



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04 09 Daley hypes phony commitment to diversity to mislead IOC





PRESS RELEASE

August 31, 2009

For Immediate Release

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IOC NEWSLETTER - Aug. 31, 2009

No Games Chicago Has No Confidence in Civic Federation 2016 Report

(Chicago) No Games Chicago today issued its own review of the Civic Federation's review of the 2016 Committee's finances. "What we've got here is the sheep paying the foxes to audit the wolves" said No Games organizer Tom Tresser. "There are so many conflicts of interest in the inception, staffing and execution of this report as to make it virtually toothless." Nevertheless, despite the many flaws in the reporting process, the document still reveals many new reasons for Chicagoans to be concerned about the 2016 bid process and its authors.

No Games Chicago has a number of major objections to this report:

THE KEY PLAYERS ARE BIASED (Page numbers refer to the L.E.K. report unless otherwise indicated. [Additional information and back up for this assertion is available at our website.](#))

1. The sponsoring body, the Civic Federation, is hardly impartial.
 - Of the 82 board members listed at the end of the Civic Federation's 2007 annual report 40 - or almost 50% - work for companies that are supporters of the 2016 bid - either as donors or members of the 2016 Committee.
 - 2016 Chairman Patrick Ryan is displayed prominently in the Civic Federation's 2007 report because he was awarded their 2007 Lyman J. Gage Award for Outstanding Civic Contribution to the city. He is also a major donor to the Civic Federation.
 - Three of the seven funders of this study were major donors to the 2016 Committee. The Chicago Community Trust, the MacArthur Foundation and the Polk Brothers Foundation have donated a total of \$3 million to the 2016 Committee.
2. L.E.K. Consulting, the firm hired by the Civic Federation, has ties to both the city administration and the Olympic movement.
 - L.E.K. has done major consulting work for the City of Chicago and has a major proposal pending - regarding retail opportunities at O'Hare Airport. The firm did work on the privatization of the Monroe Street garages (p.1). How can we expect them to be critical of the

Olympic bid when they know this is Mayor Daley's obsession? In addition, L.E.K. has done work on Olympic bids, according to Civic Federation President Lawrence Msall, quoted in Crain's Chicago Business online.

- L.E.K. called upon subject matter experts friendly or directly beholden to the bid process. The list of experts "consulted to understand how the 2016 budget was crafted" shows 15 individuals from 14 companies. Ten of those individuals were from eight companies that have donated to the 2016 Committee - that's two thirds of the "experts" consulted. If your firm is a major contributor to the 2016 effort what sort of perspective are you going to bring to a review process? (p.7)

2016 ASSUMPTIONS UNCHALLENGED - TOUGH QUESTIONS UNASKED

1. The Civic Committee's Narrative Summary says that "the following report is not a financial audit but rather a high-level review." (p. 3) So they're NOT really running the numbers but "testing the assumptions" used to develop the plan.
2. The report adheres to the fantasy that the 2016 committee is independent of City Hall and that their plans will be executed without the endemic corruption and overruns that have plagued every city project for decades.
3. Assumptions regarding the Olympic Village are extremely optimistic and are unwarranted given Olympic history and the Chicago marketplace.
 - The report accepts the committee's estimate that the Village, which will contain 7,300 athlete units, will cost about \$1.2 billion to complete. The Vancouver 2010 Olympic Village, 1100 athlete units, is now estimated to cost almost \$1 billion. How can Chicago possibly construct 7 times the space at approximately the same cost for a project that will take place seven years from now?
 - The report does not question the feasibility of finding private developers who will undertake this project. However, a report in Crain's Real Estate Daily quotes a principal at Kargil Development as saying lenders today will not finance more than 60-70% of a project, leaving taxpayers to pick up as much as \$720 million if the project comes in on budget. This is in addition to \$110 million in TIF funding for infrastructure costs. The private development of the Vancouver and London villages ran into severe economic difficulties and left the citizens of both cities with the entire bill for completing the buildings.
 - Once the Olympics are over, the city may be responsible for selling those units in a condominium market that has historically been volatile and risky. An aggressive estimate assumes the market will be able to absorb all 2,000 of the units created from the athletes' housing at a premium price over several years, although the report notes that "the true costs and sales potential will not be evident until trends in the construct and real estate markets become more certain." (p. 64-65)
4. Local sponsorships and donations are budgeted at substantially higher rates than previous Olympics (the report calls them "aggressive") and depends on many companies to participate at historic levels. However, no fundraising plans to achieve those goals have been established.
 - The \$1.8 billion in sponsorship revenues, which account for one-third of total budgeted revenues, are \$1 billion more than was achieved in Atlanta in 1996 (p. 20).
 - \$177 million in naming rights, considered "donations" by the 2016 committee, are based on revenue costs and not on the market for naming rights. For example, the committee has set a target of \$19 million for naming rights for the shooting and the rowing venues, equal to the amount Citibank pays annually (for a seven month season and 81 home games) for the right to put its name on the Mets stadium. Naming rights for the Olympic Stadium are budgeted for \$47 million in a time of corporate cutbacks and cost cutting! (p. 26)
5. The contingency of \$451 million included in the budget is likely to be insufficient if the

aggressive sponsorship and donation are not reached and construction costs are more than 10% over budget, as overruns have been in major Chicago projects such as Millennium Park, Block 37, and the Monroe Street garage.

6. Although the 2016 committee has repeatedly maintained that not one penny of taxpayer money is included in the Olympic bid, the report makes clear the City of Chicago and its citizens will be supplying, in addition to the \$86 million in costs to buy the Michael Reese site (plus tens of millions for security, demolition and remediation costs), \$110 million in TIF funding for the Olympic Village site (p. 66) and \$35 million supplied by the Park District to build a velodrome in Douglas Park and a slalom canoe and kayak course on Northerly Island (p. 73), neither of which was requested by the citizens of Chicago and neither of which would have been thought of except for this Olympic scheme -- at a time when employee cutbacks have caused beaches to open later and close earlier and parks to be cleaned less often, when park programs have been cut and fees raised.

7. It was only after the L.E.K. report was issued that Chicago 2016 revealed its latest insurance policy to be put in place in the event of cost overruns -- leaving the plan for taxpayer protection unchecked by an outside body and L.E.K.'s review of Chicago 2016's proposed insurance policies virtually useless.

- According to the Chicago Sun-Times, "Chicago's bid team said it negotiated to move a \$500 million "catastrophe" insurance policy to the front of the line of guarantees to be tapped. If that policy is exhausted, an additional \$500 million in "umbrella" insurance will become available. After that, planners could tap Game revenues to date or take out a line of credit based on \$450 million projected revenues from the Games."
- However, if a "catastrophe" or something of the like were to occur and the insurance fund is tapped, Chicago taxpayers would again be responsible for picking up the tab.
- And despite promises to taxpayers that insurance policies will pick up the tab, Natalie Moore of Chicago Public Radio reported that, "The insurance doesn't cover failure to secure sponsorships and game ticket sales," leaving taxpayers of Chicago on the hook for any portion of the optimistically budgeted \$1.8 billion in sponsorship revenues not raised.
- L.E.K. reports, "If construction insurance is triggered and emptied, additional funds will be drawn from the contingency, city and state guarantees and then additional funds from the city" (p. 77).
- And with all the talk of "construction-overrun insurance" coming from Chicago 2016 it turns out that the policy isn't even required if Chicago is awarded the Games. L.E.K. states that, "cost overrun insurance will be optional as fixed price contracts may be negotiated instead of procuring the insurance." (p. 77) Again, leaving Chicago taxpayers exposed to cost overruns.

No Games Chicago believes there are numerous fundamental problems with the L.E.K. report. "How can we trust the independence of L.E.K.'s report when it is was hand picked by individuals backing the bid and L.E.K. is currently competing for a contract at O'Hare's International Terminal that is worth \$33 million a year in revenue? This whole process reeks of typical Chicago politics," says Bob Quellos of No Games Chicago.

Even so, L.E.K.'s report does provide enough information to conclude that Chicago's 2016 Olympic bid is a raw deal for the people of the city. From shaky promises about insurance policies to over inflated projections on sponsorships and donations -- it is clear from L.E.K.'s report that Chicago 2016 is attempting to sell the people of the city a lemon.

No Games Chicago is an all-volunteer group of social justice activists, concerned citizens and grassroots organizations opposed to bringing the 2016 Olympics to Chicago. The group was launched on January 31, 2009 with a public forum at the University of Illinois Chicago.

###



No Games Chicago Update

30 Days To Decision

Daily News

September 1, 2009

The People Speak

Olympic Ticket Prices Outrageous

When it all started, I was all in favor of the city of Chicago bidding for the 2016 Olympics. The idea, I thought, was to participate in the spirit of the Olympics to bring friendship and sportsmanship as well as the financial rewards to the city and bring us into the world scheme of things. That was my idea until I read the article "2016 tickets would be as high as \$1645" This, to say the least, is outrageous. With the economy as it is, and who

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

David Greising, the chief business reporter for the Chicago Tribune, continues to criticize the 2016 Committee on its lack of candor, transparency and believability with regard to preventing corruption and incompetence inside the operation of the Chicago olympic effort.

RACE FOR THE 2016 GAMES

[Chicago 2016 bid committee still short of finish line on public disclosure](#)

Bid leader Pat Ryan says rules will solve disclosure problems -- but rules alone rarely are enough to stop corruption

David Greising - September 1, 2009

Chicago 2016 is making commitments to disclose all kinds of information about the way money, clout and contracts would flow leading up to the Olympic Games the city hopes to host.

The salaries of top executives, contributions made by individuals and companies that get Olympics contracts, the organizing committee's revenue and spending totals: All would be subject to disclosure, Chicago 2016 says.

And how will anyone test whether there are no conflicts of interest? Simple, said Chicago 2016 chief executive Pat Ryan in a visit to the Tribune editorial board in advance of a City Council appearance Tuesday.

"We test it by having the rule that we won't do that," Ryan said.

Now there is an approach Chicago has never thought of before: Just make the right rules. Everyone will follow them, and we'll all live cloutlessly ever after.

Had the rules just been clearer, no one would have turned the

knows how it will be in 2016, it would seem to me that in order to garner support of the people, who are afraid that their taxes will be used to pay for these games, that it would be good to get full participation of all the spectators who would like to see the games, not by reserving them for a select few who can pay that fee. I have always wanted to see an Olympic game, as have I am sure other people in this city, but if I and others are to be excluded by these outlandish prices and higher fares for transportation, Mayor Daley can forget about support from me and others like me.

**John Ibes,
Portage Park**

Letter to the Editor
Chicago Sun-Times
August 31, 2009

city's Hired Truck program into a symbol of graft.

Tougher rules against patronage, and the Shakman decree would not have been necessary. When Shakman did not work, even better rules would have erased the need to hire an independent monitor to enforce the decree the city was ignoring in the first place.

Better rules, and city pension funds would never have granted lucrative insurance business to a firm founded by Mayor Richard Daley's nephew.

At a hearing Tuesday, the City Council is expected to focus mainly on the question of whether Chicago 2016 has presented a sound economic plan for the Games. A mostly adulatory Civic Federation report late last month largely made that question moot. And Chicago 2016 took a step further last week, redrawing its insurance lines to give more financial protection to taxpayers.

Anyone who has watched Ryan and his team in action knows financial soundness is not the core issue. This group can shoot straight. They have the right mix of business acumen and Olympics know-how.

But this is, after all, the bid committee from clout city. Whenever the words "Chicago" and "bid" come together, something regrettable often results, and with the Olympics there will be billions and billions of dollars in contracts for bid. Rules alone do not kill clout. Many not-so-good citizens of Chicago seem to have trouble following such rules.

That is where the Freedom of Information Act comes in. It enables the public to learn who is following the rules and who is not.

Though Chicago 2016 has taken strides to open itself to scrutiny, it is not yet going far enough. For starters, the organizing committee is both writer and enforcer of its own disclosure rules. That is problematic, to say the least.

The bid committee is releasing names and salaries of only top officials -- those making more than \$200,000. That hardly is the full-fledged list that might help the public trace the connections that show how clout affects who gets hired, who gets contracts and how much they are paid.

If construction costs get out of control, Chicago's Olympics organizers will know, but the public will not. And without Freedom of Information, the public would never be able to trace the internal communications that might reveal what went wrong.

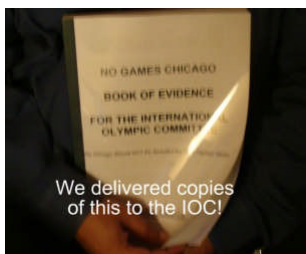
What business does the public have in any of this? After all, Chicago 2016 is a private entity. The Chicago Olympic organizing committee would be, too, if Chicago wins the Games on Oct. 2.

But the Chicago Olympic committee wants the public to guarantee it will cover any shortfall from the Games. That guarantee will make or break Chicago's bid. Even Chicago 2016 should know



that, in this town, no one gets something for nothing.

The Games could and likely would be good for Chicago. But not at any price. The best way to keep costs -- and clout -- under control is to provide the public the same access it has to information about any other entity with that much power over the city's purse.



We delivered copies of this to the IOC!

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[Open letter to the IOC:](#)

"Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"



Jack Higgins' political cartoon from today's Chicago Sun-Times sums up how people feel about Mayor Daley and his 2016 Olympic Committee.

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No Games Chicago Update

29 Days To Decision

Daily News

September 2, 2009

The People Speak

A check for \$75.00 is in the mail. I sincerely wish it could be more. Please keep the pressure on these filthy crooked bastards, especially the Daley Administration. The level of corruption and deceit exhibited by many of our city officials is absolutely staggering! These individuals would sell their own mothers if a profit could be made. They are nothing more than a bunch of political thugs and scam artists. Have they already forgotten that Chicago is dead in the middle

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

Today's news cycle is all about your 2016 Evaluation Commission's report and how the 2016 Committee is spinning it.

John Kass, the senior columnist for the Chicago Tribune, has an amusing, but very telling, take on the bid backers.

[Scratch our backs, we'll 'Back the Bid'](#)

John Kass - Chicago Tribune - September 2, 2009

Pat Ryan, the mayor's tough-minded point man for Chicago's bid to host the 2016 Olympic Games, paused near my office on the way out of Tribune Tower recently.

The poor fellow didn't want to stop. But he had to stop because once I saw him, I jumped up and ran out into the corridor and all but tackled him.

That's when I dropped the Chicago Way on the guy and named my price for supporting the Olympics.

"Hey, Pat, guess what? I'm ready to drop my opposition and support Chicago 2016! I'm ready to back the bid," I said, referring to the big "Back the Bid" promotion Sept. 13, in which such institutions as the Art Institute and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra will offer discounts to help drum up support for the mayor's Games.

"Really? You're in support?" asked the distinguished, white-haired former insurance company magnate. "That's nice."

I don't think he believed me.

"Yes," I said, shaking Ryan's hand, pumping it up and down as if we'd just made a deal. "And all I want are the exclusive Gyros/Celtic Corn contracts, and the exclusive bottled water contracts for every Olympic venue. I mean, who's really gonna

of a serious financial crisis? The individuals who have been promoting Chicago as the best site for the 2016 Olympics are the very same people who are responsible for seriously mismanaging or squandering our limited resources. This fact alone should be of grave concern to the IOC Evaluation Commission. If the games are awarded to Chicago, the inevitable boycotts will be remarkable to say the least and nobody will be able to claim that they were not forewarned. The Olympic Games are a special "once in a lifetime" event for most athletes. They deserve so much more than a venue tainted with unrelenting controversy and shameful political scheming. I hope the IOC thinks so too and makes an informed decision. I give my personal thanks to everyone

know?"

If you're wondering, there were witnesses present, including at least one distinguished member of the Tribune's editorial board, which is an august panel of specialists in economics, government, politics and foreign affairs, each with a fine grasp of subtle policy shifts and nuance. (And a couple of them bring some really tasty baked goods for coffee time.) Naturally, I am not a member. But I did have Ryan's hand. And I wasn't letting go.

"Nice seeing you," Ryan said, trying to escape.

I didn't have to tell Ryan this, but there is no Freedom of Information law mandating reporting requirements on who gets what if the Games come to Chicago. There's just a promise by Ryan about full disclosure and another promise that clout will have no place at Mayor Richard Daley's Olympics.

I've never heard of Ryan lying about anything. His promises about disclosure are nice promises.

Olympic disclosure is a subject that my Tribune colleague David Greising has written about extensively. Promises aren't law. There is no force of law behind the vows to disclose who gets what so the public can see who's really getting the Olympic gold.

Such disclosure laws apply to other agencies, but Illinois is still the most politically corrupt state in the union. Of the last three governors, two have been indicted for corruption and one is already in prison. And at City Hall, there has been conflict after conflict, and promise after promise from the mayor to stop it. He's been promising an end to conflicts and cronyism for 20 years.

Yet in a few weeks, the International Olympic Committee will be deciding whether Chicago or some other town gets the 2016 Games. Billions of dollars will be spent on a two-week sports festival that will reshape the South and West Sides, erect some fantastically cool architecture, and, oh, some guys will get really rich.

And the rest of us chumbolones in Illinois? We'll most likely end up paying for it one way or another, as we've paid for every deal, with ever-increasing taxes and fees. But since the Olympics are wired, why not get on board?

Just do me a favor. Don't tell anyone about this, not even my editor. Keep it a secret among you and me and Ryan. Because without the force of law behind vows of disclosure, nobody really has to know, do they?

"So I'm ready to back the bid," I told Ryan. "But don't forget the gyros, the corn, the bottled water contracts, and then I'm yours."

"Uh-huh," Ryan said.

If Chicago gets the 2016 Olympics, there will be about a gazillion tourists in town, and I plan on feeding them oodles of salty meat and salty starch. Once they're thirsty enough, I'll sell bottled

who has fought hard to end this Olympic sized charade. You are the true champions in my view and your selfless efforts will be an example to others.

Thank you Again.

**Bill Schandelmeier,
Chicago - Donor to
No Games Chicago**

Chicago tap water at an outrageous price, and with my monopoly, I'll make a fortune. If the 2016 Olympic committee keeps my name out of the newspapers and gives me the salt and water concessions, then I just might just become a cheerleader.

"Hmm," Ryan said. "Ah." Then he walked away, looking over his shoulder every few feet to make sure I wasn't following. My young colleague, Wings, was sighing loudly at his desk.

"What's wrong with you?" I hissed. "Go grab him! You're letting Ryan get away!"

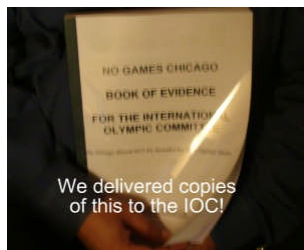
"You forgot to tell him about my Sangria stands," Wings whispered. "What about my exclusive 2016 Sangria stands? I want to wet my beak too."

So I yelled at Ryan's back: "And Wings wants the exclusive Sangria contract! Remember, Sangria for Wings. Water and salt for me! We're your men!"

He's such a nice fellow, that Mr. Ryan. He didn't actually promise anything -- perhaps the mayor wants to see if I really mean it this time -- but at least Ryan didn't say no.

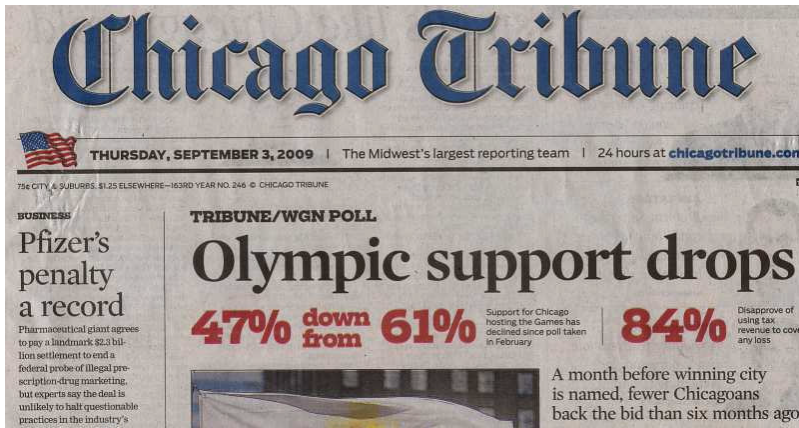
Actually, he didn't say anything.

jskass@tribune.com



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**[Open letter to the IOC:](#)
"Why you don't want to give the Olympics to**



No Games Chicago Update 28 Days To Decision Daily News

September 3, 2009

The People Speak

Joyce Thoele, one of several poll respondents who spoke with the Tribune, said she did not believe Daley and others who said taxpayers are not at risk. She opposes Daley's Olympic plans and said she would not attend any events if the Games come here.

"I'm against this because it's going to cost us taxpayers more money," said Thoele, 76, of the Northwest Side. "The older I get,

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

It's hard to overstate the importance of today's Update to you. The Chicago Tribune conducted a poll to measure public support for the bid. **Chicago citizens overwhelmingly reject the notion of hosting and paying for the 2016 Olympics. 84% DO NOT WANT TAX DOLLARS TO PAY FOR THE GAMES.**

TRIBUNE/ WGN POLL

[Olympic opposition getting second wind as support in Chicago fades](#)

47 percent of Chicagoans polled favor the bid, but that support had been at 61 percent in February

By Todd Lighty and Kathy Bergen - September 3, 2009

Support in Chicago for the 2016 Summer Olympic Games has dwindled, with residents now sharply divided over whether the city should host the Games, a Tribune/WGN poll has found.

Nearly as many city residents oppose Mayor Richard Daley's Olympic plans, 45 percent, as support them, 47 percent. And residents increasingly and overwhelmingly oppose using tax dollars to cover any financial shortfalls for the Games, with 84 percent disapproving of the use of public money.

the more I don't trust Chicago politicians."

Mary Beth Nick, who lives in West Rogers Park, said the Olympics were not worth the disruption they would cause. "And I think we should concentrate on improving the quality of life in the city for more than a lot of visitors who are going to be here for a fortnight," she said.

Chicagoans polled by the Chicago Tribune

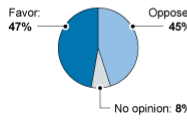
TRIBUNE/WGN POLL

2016 support down

Support for the 2016 Olympic Games among city respondents has fallen from 61 percent in February to 47 percent.

POLL CONDUCTED AUG. 27-31

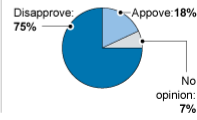
Q: Do you favor or oppose Chicago hosting the 2016 Olympic Games?



Q: Would you approve of using tax revenue to cover the loss ... or would you disapprove?



Q: Do you approve or disapprove of an unlimited financial guarantee for the Olympics in case of a revenue shortfall?



SOURCE: Market Shares Corp. telephone poll of 380 respondents in Chicago. Margin of error is +/- 5 percentage points.

TRIBUNE

The poll comes a month before the International Olympic Committee selects the host city for the 2016 Olympics. Chicago is competing against Tokyo, Madrid and Rio de Janeiro.

The new results show slippage from the 2-to-1 support found in a Tribune poll in February, and experts said the findings could hurt Chicago's chances.

"When less than half of the folks polled indicate they'd be willing to support the Olympics, that's certainly not an enthusiastic mandate for bringing the Games to Chicago," said sports finance expert Dennis Howard of the University of Oregon. "I can't speak for the IOC members who will be making the decision, but I'd be fairly certain this would not help the cause for Chicago."

Patrick Ryan, who is leading the Chicago 2016 bid committee, declined to comment Wednesday about the poll results. But this morning, the committee issued a statement saying the poll was taken at a time when some taxpayers had lingering questions about whether they would be protected in the event of financial losses.

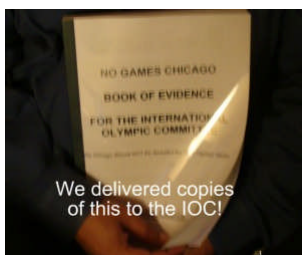
"In the days since this poll was conducted, those questions have been answered and those concerns have been alleviated," said the committee's spokesman, Patrick Sandusky.

Sandusky noted that the Civic Federation and the IOC issued reports stating that Chicago 2016's plan was financially responsible and posed "minimal risk to taxpayers." He added that aldermen have given the committee "high marks" for its plan.

Also, Sandusky said, polling is only one way to evaluate community sentiment. He said the committee has raised \$70 million in private donations and that more than 20,000 volunteers support the bid.

The telephone survey of 380 Chicago registered voters, conducted Aug. 27 through Monday by Market Shares Corp., has a margin of error of 5 percentage points.

The Tribune/WGN poll is the first measure of public sentiment since Daley did an about-face in June, saying he would sign the standard host city contract giving the city full financial responsibility for any losses -- a move that triggered a firestorm of criticism. Until then, the city had been lobbying for amendments to the contract that would recognize the city's limited guarantees.



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**Open letter
to the IOC:**

**"Why you don't
want to give the
Olympics to
Chicago"**

Poll respondents made it abundantly clear that they disapprove of Daley's promise of an unlimited guarantee in the event the Games lose money, with 75 percent opposed.

In a city already upset over the privatization of parking meters and worried about further cutbacks in government services, those respondents who talked to reporters expressed concerns about the economy, the cost of hosting the Games and traffic congestion.

Even a majority of those who favor the Olympics opposed using taxes to cover losses and were against the unlimited guarantee.

Joyce Thoele, one of several poll respondents who spoke with the Tribune, said she did not believe Daley and others who said taxpayers are not at risk. She opposes Daley's Olympic plans and said she would not attend any events if the Games come here.

"I'm against this because it's going to cost us taxpayers more money," said Thoele, 76, of the Northwest Side. "The older I get, the more I don't trust Chicago politicians."

Mary Beth Nick, who lives in West Rogers Park, said the Olympics were not worth the disruption they would cause. "And I think we should concentrate on improving the quality of life in the city for more than a lot of visitors who are going to be here for a fortnight," she said.

North Side resident Melanie Payne said she was ambivalent about the Olympics. She said the Games would provide an international showcase for the city, which she called the "most wonderful place to live." But she wondered about costs.

Daley and members of his Chicago 2016 bid committee said most costs will be covered by revenues from the Olympics, developer financing and donations. They project making money but have lined up \$750 million in city and state guarantees in case of losses.

Chicago 2016 also has lined up \$1 billion in private insurance coverage to protect taxpayers in the event of natural disasters, cancellation of the Games or a collapse of development financing.

The Tribune/WGN poll was conducted over five days, beginning the day after the Civic Federation released a report that was generally supportive of the 2016 committee's financial plans.

Aaron Williams-Banks, a college student who works part time for the Chicago Park District, favors the Games and believes taxpayers are adequately protected.

"We need a boost to our economy," he said. "This is a great thing. The Olympics will help the city."

When the Tribune last took the pulse of city residents on the Olympics in February, 61 percent supported the Games compared with 47 percent now. Opposition has grown from 26 percent in February to 45 percent now.

The IOC conducted its own poll in February, finding that 67 percent of the residents in Chicago and the suburbs were in favor.

The IOC did not measure the sentiments of just city residents, as both Tribune polls did.

Since the last Tribune poll, feelings against using tax money to cover any shortfalls have grown stronger, with 84 percent opposed now, compared with 76 percent in February.

The extent to which the new poll influences IOC voters on Oct. 2, when the winning city is announced, will depend in large part on whether the results change the political landscape, said Kevin Wamsley, an Olympic historian at the University of Western Ontario. He said the fresh poll results could provide fodder for opponents.

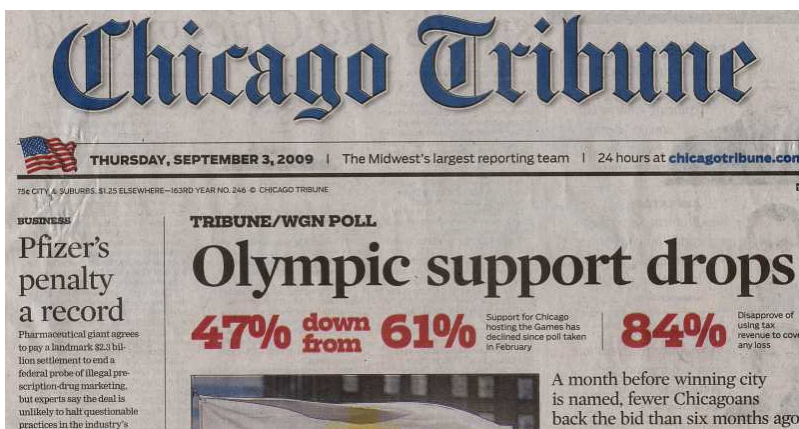
Kevan Gosper of Australia, one of the longest-sitting IOC members, said he believed Chicago's bid was gaining traction among Olympic voters.

But he also said community support was an important element.

"Normally," Gosper said, "you would hope public sentiment would be building as a candidate city approaches the competition."

Email Marketing by





No Games Chicago Update 27 Days To Decision Daily News

September 4, 2009

The People Speak

Totally bankrupt some other city, not Chicago. How about the mayor's family and the P. Ryan family guarantee everything before putting one single taxpayer \$ on the hook ? We don't want this 2016 event. How often and in how many ways does the IOC need to hear this turndown? We are saying "no" the dance, so move on to the next available partner.

L. Geiger

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

The tide has turned in Chicago against hosting the 2016 Olympics. Every day sees more public outcry. Today's column is by the sports reporter from a popular local news site.

[Boosters oversell benefits of sports venues - Say NO to 2016](#)

Patrick Kissane - Chi-Town Daily News

Jeff Long and Ken Manson report at the Chicago Tribune about the troubles that are beginning to ensnare the Sears Centre in Hoffman Estates. It was a story covered in part in this column too, when the United Hockey League Chicago Hounds were unable to reach an agreement with the Sears Centre for a lease renewal and folded. It could also be the future story of the Metro Centre in Rockford, home of the American Hockey League Rockford IceHogs and it could also be the story of the 2016 Olympics in Chicago.

Public funding of large venues, from the Cell to the renovation of Soldier Field, has promised great financial rewards. But, according to the story by Long, the village of Hoffman Estates is on the hook for millions in bond repayments if the venue isn't profitable. First, of course, the current owners, a combination of the Ryan Companies US of Minneapolis and Sears Holdings must move to terminate their ownership. Sears had helped to sell the deal to the village by promising to cover the bond payments for four years, according to the story. Now that the four years are up, the ownership group is looking to bail. Potentially holding the bag:

Chicago

Signer of No Games Chicago online petition

the good citizens of Hoffman Estates.

Cal Skinner, a well-known writer who edits the McHenry County Blog, has been following the effort by Crystal Lake to create a minor league baseball stadium in his blog. Skinner lists a number of studies that question some of the key sales points of proponents for large sports venues.

But it doesn't matter what the opponents know about the lies put forward about economics by sports boosters. The boosters ignore the facts and continue to sell the dream of money falling from the sky.



Here's the reality. Over at the Illinois Sports Finance Authority, once you get past the offal about helping the community, you can see that financially, the Chicago White Sox contribute a tiny 7.3 percent of the total revenue for the last fiscal year reported. Tax payers, including visitors to the city, contribute almost 87 percent of the total revenue needed to pay the ISFA's bonds through a subsidy of \$5 million from each of the city and the state general fund and "hotel" taxes.



Meanwhile, the ISFA makes this claim: "ISFA provided the public contribution, a total of \$406 million, of the \$606 million needed for the Chicago Lakefront Development project, including the significant restoration of Soldier Field. ISFA financed this operation through the issuance of municipal bonds backed by an existing 2 percent Authority Hotel Tax. This revenue did not come from State or City general revenue funds, nor is it a result of increased taxes for Chicago or Illinois residents."

[Visit our web site and download the "Book of Evidence" that we delivered to you in Lausanne!](#)

It is Orwellian, at least, to claim that after being funded to the tune of 87 percent of your budget, that you did not use any of it to redevelop and restore Soldier Field. Can I get my part of this back please? A simple walk around the neighborhood that once called Comiskey Park home, will demonstrate that there wasn't a large scale redevelopment of the area. While the North Side went through a massive change which was largely funded by private developers, the South Side has largely languished. Further, I think it should be argued that the massive debt loaded onto Chicago taxpayers is a subsidy to the private company which owns the Chicago White Sox. To be fair, shouldn't the taxpayers also assist the Chicago Cubs?

[Open letter to the IOC:](#)

"Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"

We live in a truly Orwellian place called Chicago. Guided by the mayor and the local Olympic boosters, we are being sold tripe about the economic benefits to the 2016 games. The mayor has defended tax increases by calling them abatements, has sold us tax increases by saying they won't effect us, just tourists.

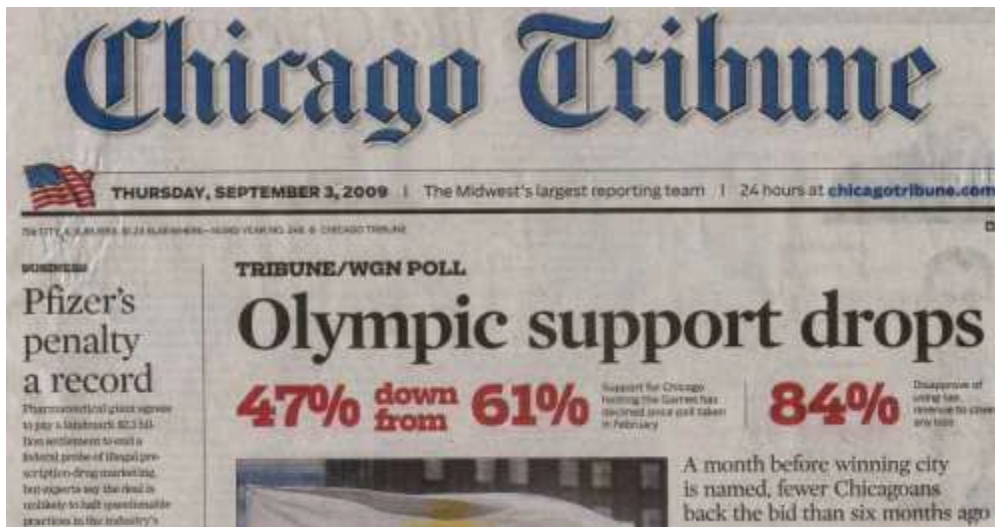
What I see in the Sears Centre floundering is mismanagement by the Sears Centre, boosterism by the local supporters resulting in the citizens holding the bag and a warning of what could happen on a massive scale in Chicago if it pursues the 2016 games. Boosters cannot and will not see futures that challenge their rosy forecasts.

I am a citizen of Chicago, I am upset by [the mismanagement by](#)

[the city of its assets](#). I do not believe the committee and this mayor any more. I say NO to the games. NO to taxpayers assuming the risk. NO to this mayor and this inept City Council and even worse Cook County government.

Email Marketing by





No Games Chicago Update 26 Days To Decision Daily News

September 5, 2009

The People Speak

How is it possible that Chicago is spending an obscene amount of money on the one hand to win this bid and on the other hand is pleading "no money" to properly run this city without further totally unethical political "theft" from the taxpayers.

Not one person we know wants this 2016 event held here in Chicago. Take it else where.

B. Geiger

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

We've read the Evaluation Commission's report on the four 2016 finalist cities. Frankly, we think you missed a many relevant factors. One important problem that the report did note was the state of Chicago's mass transit system.

Chicago

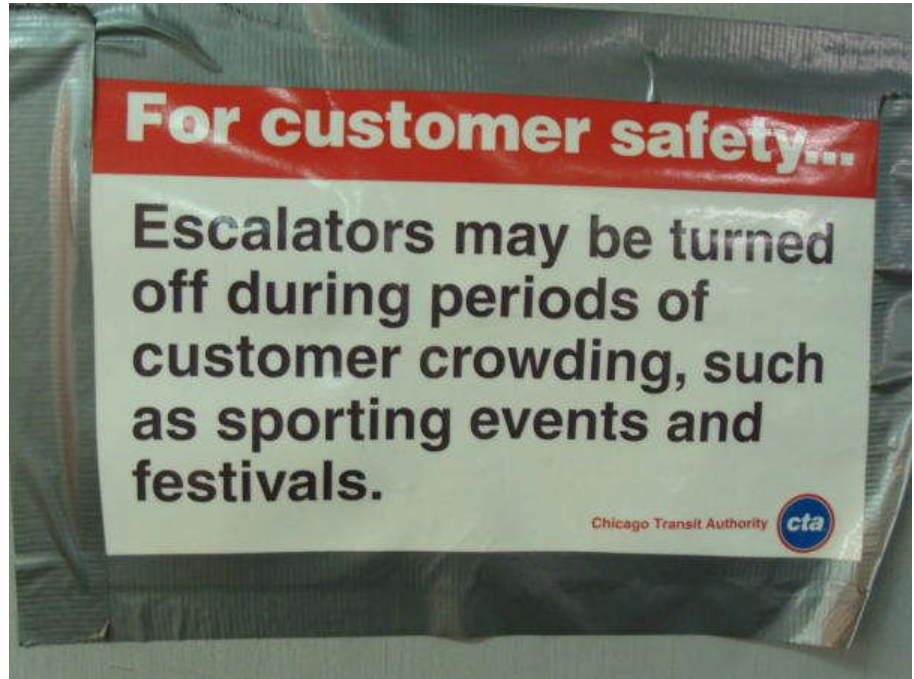
Signer of No Games
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[Open letter to the IOC:](#)

"Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"



The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) operates our trains and buses. The Red Line is our major north/south line and it stops at the stadiums where the Chicago White Sox and Chicago Cubs play. The above sign was posted at the Grand Street Station - in the heart of Chicago's major shopping district

Chairman of Chicago's CTA Admits \$7 Billion in Unfunded Repairs

CTA Chairman Carole L. Brown gave a speech to the APTA Rail Conference in Chicago on June 15, 2009. In it she revealed an alarming backlog of repair work for our mass transit system.

"We still have an almost \$7 BILLION - yes, 7 BILLION DOLLARS of unfunded repair needs."

[Read her full remarks here.](#)

Email Marketing by





No Games Chicago Update 25 Days To Decision Daily News

September 6, 2009

The People Speak

A recent Tribune poll showed 86% of Chicagoans against using tax money for the Olympics. What makes Chicago a great city isn't the skyline or the lakefront, or the arts, it is the people! Chicago people make this a great city, and the people have made it clear they do not want to pay for this mess! Even a Sun Times online poll showed 78% against the Olympics

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

The more people learn about Chicago's bid to host the 2016 Olympics, the less they support it. Today's Chicago Sun-Times published a summary of the defects of the bid.

Chicago 2016 Olympics debate amps up

[CHICAGO 2016 | With decision a month away, here are pros, cons of hosting Games](#)

*September 6, 2009 - BY LISA DONOVAN Staff Reporter
- ldonovan@suntimes.com*

Chicago's now in the final lap. Next month, we'll find out whether Mayor Daley and his team cross the finish line first or go down as an also-ran in the race to host the 2016 Summer Olympics.

The Chicago 2016 organizing committee is in the midst of a last-minute phone and letter-writing campaign to the 107-member International Olympic Committee, hoping to allay concerns that Chicago's transit system can't handle the influx of just over a million visitors during the Games or that Chicago's financing plans don't

recently! Why doesn't the Sun Times reflect the views of their readers?

Ken Kunz, reader comment on today's Sun-Times article

provide an adequate safety net.

Chicago 2016 chief executive Patrick Ryan said the bid team wants IOC members, who will select a host city Oct. 2 in Copenhagen, to know they've cleared several hurdles, including getting the City Council's blessing for the mayor to sign the controversial host-city contract -- which puts taxpayers on the hook if a Chicago Olympics ended up losing money.

The mayor's announcement in June that he'd sign the agreement was a surprise, fueling criticism that the process was shrouded in secrecy. Even some of the aldermen were ticked off, and a ward-by-ward community meeting blitz followed. There, the Olympic bid team -- minus the mayor -- touted the jobs and tourism dollars that pour in to an Olympic city.

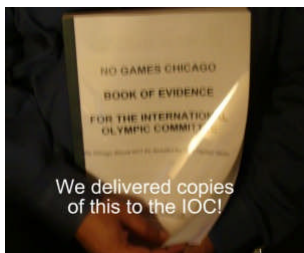
Still, some questioned whether the city could afford to host the Games.

Here's a look at some of the pros and cons:



Finances

Pro: A "frugal" \$4.8 billion plan to stage the Games, including an Olympic Village whose transformation from athlete dormitories to permanent housing is expected to help with costs. The Games would be bankrolled by private donors, and just under half of the planned venues are in existing facilities, touted as a cost-saver. Con: Chicago has a history of missing deadlines and going over budget with its big projects - including the \$480 million Millennium Park, which opened in 2004.



[Visit our web site and download the "Book of Evidence" that we delivered to you in Lausanne!](#)

[Open letter to the IOC: "Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"](#)

[Allen Sanderson, a University of Chicago economics professor](#), said that while Chicago is making use of its existing facilities, "You're still building the biggest venues - the village, the stadium, which are not only big-ticket items for Chicago, but for . . . London, too." The Olympic Village is priced at around \$1 billion, while the proposed Olympic Stadium in Washington Park is priced at \$397.6 million. London is on track to spend \$18 billion for the 2012 Olympics - more than double what it budgeted, Sanderson noted.

Jobs

Pros: Chicago 2016 has been touting that the Games would create 315,000 new job years, or roughly 31,000 jobs over a decade.

Cons: Just what "315,000 job years means" is a stumper. Tom Tresser, spokesman for the group "[No Games Chicago](#)," said the figure doesn't say whether this is long-term employment or for a single year. And Tresser said he remains concerned that the Olympic

organizing committee running things - with City Hall entrenched in the process - will follow the tradition of trading jobs for political favors.

Tourism

Pro: With a projected 4 billion viewers tuning in to the Games and TV cameras panning across Lake Michigan and the dramatic skyline over Grant Park, Chicago could shed its image as a metropolis in flyover country and bump up its tourism numbers.

Con: Just how long Olympic fever can sustain that remains in question.

Legacies

Pros: The IOC's evaluation team, in a visit here last spring, praised Chicago 2016 for creating a lineup of 31 venues that would leave behind no white elephants - like Beijing's architecturally stunning but now-empty Bird's Nest stadium. The city's plan makes use of 15 existing facilities and calls for building six new venues that would all be scaled back after the games - including the 80,000-seat Olympic Stadium.

Cons: The question remains, then, whether there's a visual centerpiece that would be left behind. "Maybe the Olympic Village - I don't know if it's a grabber or not," Sanderson said. "Depends on whether people want to walk through an Olympic Village."

Transportation

Pros: The city and region are expecting, as other American cities have, millions in federal dollars to fix and upgrade the public transit system. That's important, considering the IOC's concern that Metra might not be able to handle a spike in demand during the Games.

Cons: Plans for public transit upgrades should be part of a 20-year plan and focus on regional and local needs. The concern, according to Sanderson, is that upgrades would be too tightly focused on July and August 2016 and not for the following years and decades. Also, during the Games, 366 miles of Chicago area roadways, including two lanes in either direction of Lake Shore Drive and single lanes of the Kennedy and Stevenson expressways, would be closed.

Chairman of Chicago's CTA Admits \$7 Billion in Unfunded Repairs

CTA Chairman Carole L. Brown gave a speech to the APTA Rail Conference in Chicago on June 15, 2009.

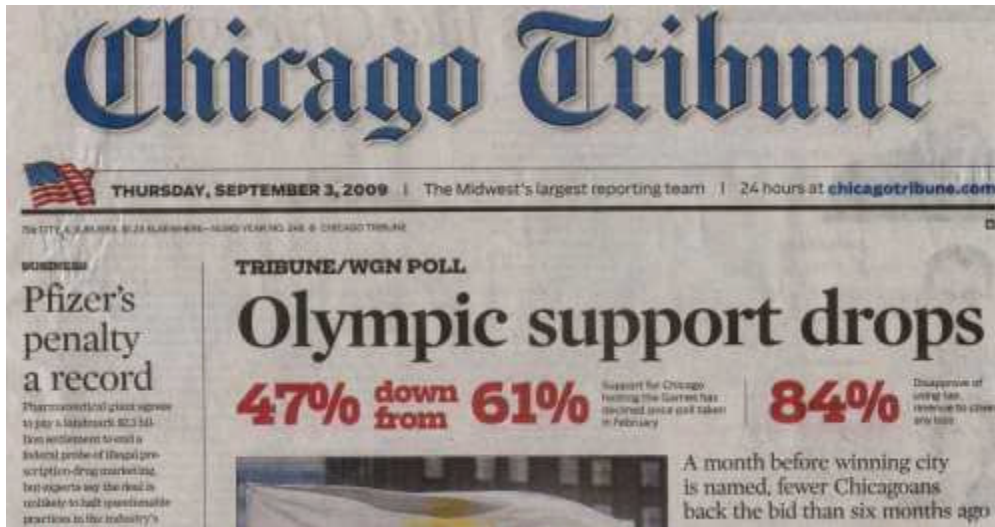
In it she revealed an alarming backlog of repair work for our mass transit system.

"We still have an almost \$7 BILLION - yes, 7 BILLION DOLLARS of unfunded repair needs."

[Read her full remarks here.](#)

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No Games Chicago Update 24 Days To Decision Daily News

September 7, 2009

The People Speak

Once again, the corrupt and spinless politicians of Chicago, have allowed Mayor Daley, to make underhanded decisions on the "behalf" of all Chicagoans. Mayor Daley has consistently LIED to Chicagoans about this Olympic bid and I don't trust him. He is only interested in himself and his cronies. NO OLYMPICS IN CHICAGO

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

The 2016 bid is embroiled in continued controversy. Now there are two competing City Council laws to introduce oversight and monitoring to the 2016 bid process and beyond.

Ben Joravsky from the Chicago Reader has a skeptical take on these two ordinances. The Sun-Times editorial cartoon shows what people think of the Mayor and his announced desires for good government and "transparency."

[The Substitute for the Substitute](#)

Posted by Ben Joravsky - Sep 1, 2009

I'm under no illusion that the 2016 Olympics-should we be so unlucky as to host them-will be anything but a waste of money, as the well-connected gorge themselves at the public's expense. So the best the City Council could do for the masses would be to effectively kill the games by passing First Ward alderman [Manny Flores's original proposal to cap](#)

Erica Smith,
Chicago
Signer of No Games
online petition

public spending at \$500 million.

But since Mayor Daley has made it clear that he won't let that legislation come up for a vote, much less win approval, the council's next best bet is to pass Flores's new proposal calling for strict oversights. ([You can check out a PDF of it here.](#))

Now it's clear the mayor won't let them do that either.



Flores introduced his substitute proposal today and the mayor quickly countered with [his own variation \[PDF\]](#), which offers next to nothing in legitimate oversight. [Click here for a chart that the alderman put together comparing the two proposals.](#)

"This ordinance will ensure greater public transparency about the Olympic finances as well as provide further protection to our taxpayers," Mayor Daley said in a prepared statement. Right.



So here's how tough things are for open government in Chicago: Mayor Daley's pushing a substitute for the substitute for the real legislation our aldermen ought to pass.

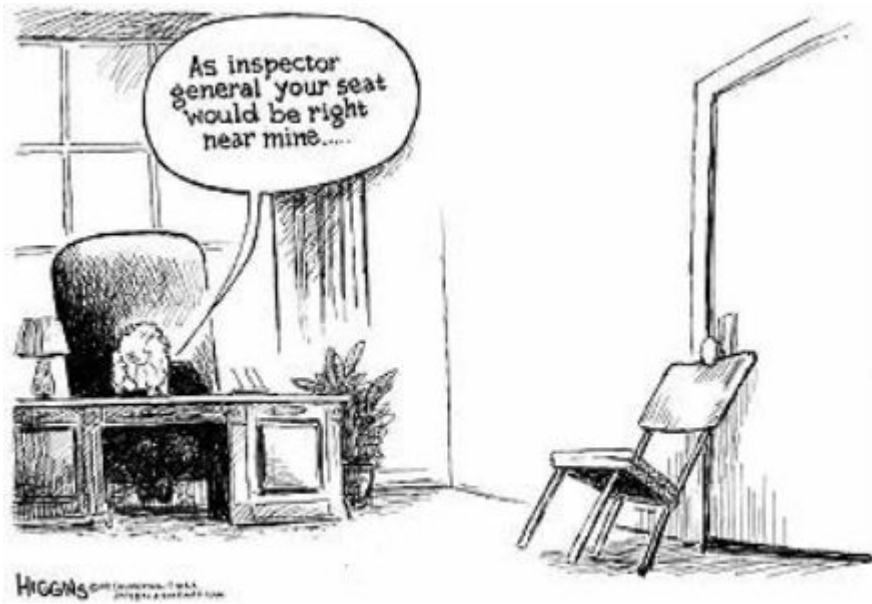
[Visit our web site and download the "Book of Evidence" that we delivered to you in Lausanne!](#)

Hang tough, Manny. I guarantee you'll get votes from aldermen Scott Waguespack and Joe Moore and maybe even Roberto Maldonado-that is, if he can get his mind off [his real estate holdings](#).

[Open letter to the IOC:](#)

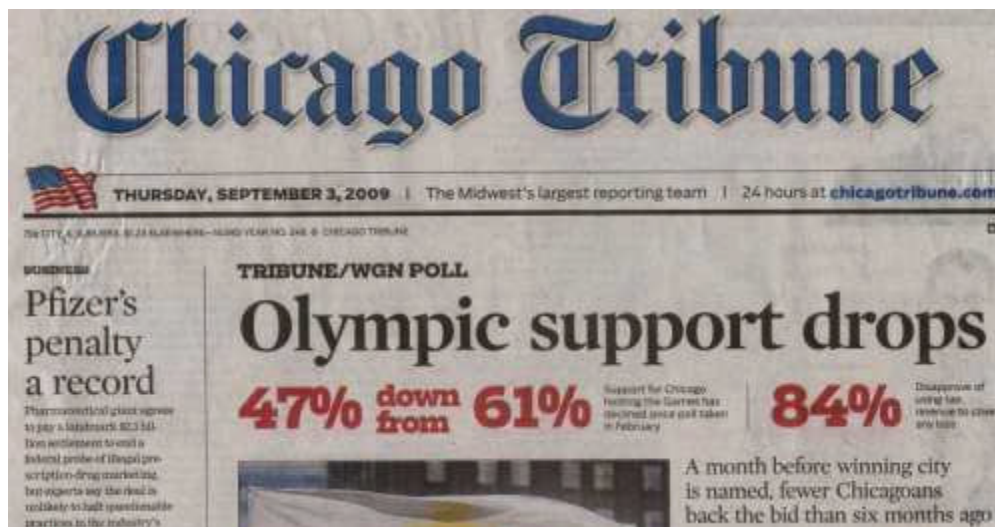
"Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"

Just kidding, Alderman M.



Email Marketing by





No Games Chicago Update

23 Days To Decision

Daily News

September 8, 2009

The People Speak

This is the wrong time in this city's history -- hell, in this nation's history -- to gamble on whether or not the Olympics will bring money to this city. But because Daley and his cronies know the damage they take if it fails won't really hurt them, they are attempting to shove this down our throats. But it will hurt the little guy who works hard every day. And that's why he

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

Today the Chicago City Council Finance Committee voted to approve the signing of the Host City Contract and the Mayor's pledge to you that city taxpayers will cover all expenses of the 2016 games as needed.

The Aldermen also voted to make the Committee's Chairman, Ed Burke, a member of the Operating Committee should Chicago be awarded the games. He will be expected to exercise oversight over 2016 operations on behalf of the citizens of Chicago.

Unfortunately, Mr. Burke was exposed in today's Chicago Sun-Times as using Chicago tax dollars for his personal benefit.

Crain's Chicago Business recently did a [story on Alderman Burke explaining how the powerful alderman exercises no oversight at all over the Mayor's financial plans](#). The article stated that Alderman Burke takes in hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions and legal fees from firms that do business with the city.

"Among recent contributions was \$3,000 from Patrick Ryan, the former Aon Corp. CEO who chairs the Chicago 2016 Olympics committee. In his latest disclosure statement filed with the city, Mr. Burke reported receiving

basically lied to us and the Olympic Committee about the financial coverage issue. Daley's like any other inveterate gambler at a roulette table. Sure, if his number falls he'll be the big hero--but if it doesn't, he loses his house and his family gets dumped out on the street. Unfortunately, we are his "family," and the "house" translates to loss of city services, extra taxes, etc. Also unfortunately for us, Daley is so fat, he is only minimally affected when he screws up...as he did with the overbudgeted Millennium Park...and the parking meter fiasco.

Comment on [CLTV News website, "Garrard McClendon Live" segment on the 2016 bid](#)

at least \$5,000 in 2008 from each of 31 law clients that also do business with the city. His firm, Klafter & Burke, is known for its work on property tax appeals."

We point these developments out to you so you will understand the outrage that will follow from Chicago taxpayers.



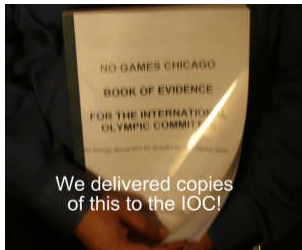
[The fence that Burke built](#)

Powerful alderman spent \$45,499 in taxpayer money to build a sidewalk and fence longer than a football field that keeps teens from hanging around the railroad track behind his home

CHRIS FUSCO and TIM NOVAK Staff Reporters- September 8, 2009

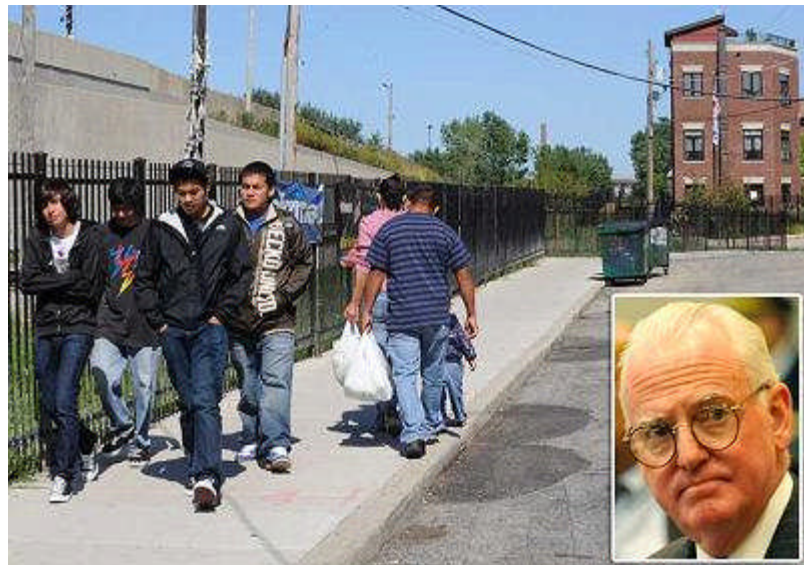
For years, the single railroad track south of Curie Metro High School on the Southwest Side had been a hangout for teens and a cut-through for commuters walking to and from the L's Orange Line station at Pulaski.

Then, a year ago, City Hall put up a wrought-iron fence south of the track, eliminating the shortcut.



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[Open letter to the IOC:](#)
"Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"



This fence keeps people off a railroad track and away from the home (seen at top right) of Ald. Edward Burke (inset).

That also stopped teens from hanging out by the neighborhood's newest and biggest house -- built and occupied by one of the city's most powerful politicians, Ald. Edward M. Burke (14th).

City taxpayers picked up the tab for the new wrought-iron fence and a sidewalk that directs pedestrians away from the house.

It was Burke's call to put in the fence and sidewalk.

He used his "aldermanic menu," a perk given to members of the Chicago City Council. They're given money they can spend on whatever public works projects they want in their wards.

Burke -- who didn't respond to requests for comment for this story -- wanted the fence and sidewalk, each longer than a football field.

"I am asking that . . . funds be allocated to the Department of Transportation for the purpose of installing a sidewalk along with a wrought-iron fence from Harding to Pulaski on West 51st Street," Burke said in an April 17, 2008, letter to city officials. "The reason for the installation of the sidewalk and wrought-iron fence is to prevent the students from Curie High School using this rail-road grade cross as a shortcut."

Burke estimated the work would cost taxpayers \$25,000. He was a bit off. By the time it was completed earlier this year, the bill came to \$45,499, city records show -- \$14,079 for the sidewalk, \$31,420 for the wrought-iron fence.

That fence connects to the fence Burke already had around his \$900,000 home. Before, people could walk right alongside his property.

They can't anymore.

From Burke's property, the fence runs west between the railroad track and a strip mall for a little less than a block, to Pulaski.

The fence has done some good, neighbors say. They credit it with helping cut down on crime and fights and discouraging gang members from hanging around.

"It's better than not having it," says one neighbor. But he also says: "It's really for Curie kids to stay off the tracks. Without that fence, they would go right past that house" -- pointing to Burke's house.

The alderman's home sits just south of the single track that, on average, is used by nine trains a day, most of them passing at under 10 mph, state records show.

Another neighbor says it's obvious why the fence went up. And it's not to keep kids from crossing the track, she says. "I think it's to keep that house safe," she says, pointing to Burke's home. "If it was for the trains, they would have put it up a long time ago."

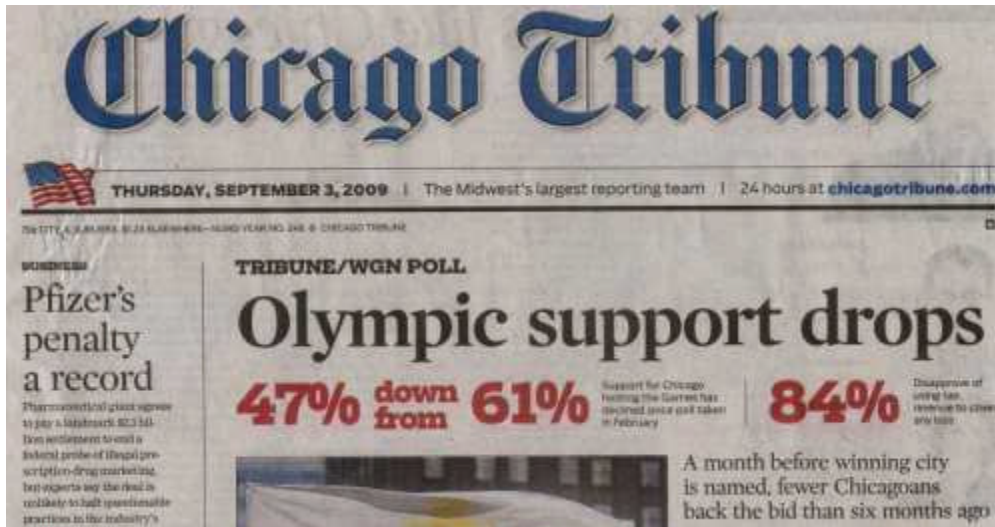
Burke had the fence put up three years after his family moved into the house on the far southwest edge of his ward in 2005.

Work on the fence began late last year. It was finished in April, city records show.

Already, it's rusting.

Email Marketing by





No Games Chicago Update 21 Days To Decision Daily News

September 10, 2009



[Visit our web site and download the "Book of Evidence" that we delivered to you in Lausanne!](#)

[Open letter to the IOC:](#)
"Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

Yesterday the Chicago City Council voted to approve the Mayor's commitment to you and endorsed the Host City Contract.

Here's just a small sample of the citizen outrage that is pouring into the media, blogs, radio shows and online comments following 2016-related news stories.



The following comments are from JUST TWO articles, one from the Chicago Sun-Times and one from the Chicago Tribune.

THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS CAN BE FOUND AT:
<http://www.suntimes.com/news/cityhall/1762851,CST-NWS-olyanalysis10.article>

lee star wrote:

As anyone in Chicago knows the Alderman are the biggest Daley b.u.t.t. Lickers in this state, they no shame or scruples.

lenny wrote:

YOU LIE!

xbillcosby wrote:

Fran you don't mention the aldermen in oversight are Burke and Austin. Two of Daley's biggest skills. Can you explain how this is a win? Or any real oversight?

focus wrote:

Daley has money for the Willis group and the TIF in the Loop, but not for Citizens

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEgn98vCnbs>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o570-57dVaU&feature=related>

justanotheropinion wrote:

Got a message for my alderman who likes his picture in the paper, Jim Balcer you are supposed to be representing the majority of your constituents, not just those deemed to have clout. WE DO NOT BACK THE BID.

And we will not back you come the next election cycle. This WILL be remembered. Time for you to get a real job and it shouldn't be in politics.

center cut wrote:

If there was a public hearing about the olympics in the 41st ward somebody forgot to invite the public. What backroom of what bar was it held in

trex47 wrote:

Not in Chicago but still in Illinois which will also be taxed up the yingying if Chicago gets it in 2016. Hope the residents also vote unanimously next election to send the King & 50 Daleyites a clear message, BID THIS!!!

on windy wrote:

Chicago Aldermen: sheep following the Judas Goat! When Da Mare shouts "Squat!" fifty pairs of drawers hit the Council floor.

blackpanthers09 wrote:

49-0 huh! I can't wait for 2011 elections so we can vote 5million-0 on putting these daley lap dogs & his House Negros out office for good. Power to the people!

jack12345 wrote:

What good is oversight by 49 lapdogs? It is like the CTA Board overseeing the CTA--laughable. Daley threw them a meaningless bone, and they said "yes, master."

antiseptic wrote:

wizards23 wrote:

This is not a rubber-stamp City Council. There's give and take. There's back-and-forth," he said. The taxpayers "give" and Daley "takes". The "back and forth" is Daley and his croonies giving it to the taxpayer up the wazoo. LOL!!

tim tells it like it is...chicago wrote:

So there are a total of 49 complete idiots, plus 1 - Daley. Put your own cash on the table Bozos. Getting the word out, you are all so fired come election time.

nobama08 wrote:

Just think of the traffic, security issues, clean up costs, maintenance of these facilities for years to come, etc. This is going to be a disaster for the City of Chicago and her taxpayers. This is all about Daley and his ego and not about Chicago.

I hope the IOC curses some other city with this bid.

citizen cane wrote:

Oh, and yes... don't forget to roll up your bits of WIT here into little balls of sh't... where it doesn't mean a thing... but it is good therapy and cathartic, so do it where it doesn't count.

Ha, Ha, simply remarkable.

PS: Don't forget to "twitter" as well, this is after all the Information Age, and YOU certainly do want to be informed... don't you?

dgm wrote:

GIVE ME A BREAK!!! You laud the commissioners for attaining concessions? Laughable! You have 49 morons that voted the way Daley told them to vote...they did NOT, I repeat, did NOT utilize a democratic-republic process and ask their constituents how to vote...they voted they way they wanted to vote, PERIOD. The citizens of Chicago will be on the hook for Billions for DECADES...You morons who live in Chicago and pay ever increasing taxes have only yourselves to blame for continuing to vote these morons into office...enjoy your 2 weeks of Games...and MASSIVE debt for generations to come!!!

citizen cane wrote:

WOW! UNBELIEVABLE!! CONGRATULATIONS Chicagoans! In view of YOUR city council's votes, Chicago... YOU "again" continue to be in the forefront of proving the theory that indeed you can fool ALL of the people ALL of the time. Ah yes, never so STUPID are those that fail to realize it... when they are being made so. Chicago, ENJOY paying for the games and the FOOLS that "some" folks; your neighbors (city council) make of you... while they laugh about and carve up the money pie.

Question: CAN Chicagoans BEcome any STUPIDER?

Answer: ABSOLUTELY, YES U CAN!! :D (lol)

chicrooko wrote:

Chicago remember not to vote for incumbants in the next election. Let's vote out these Daley lap dogs.

mindus wrote:

And let me guess, one of those two city council "representatives" is public enemy #2 Aldercriminal Ed Burke? The second biggest scumbag liar and money waster who's been allowed to city in an alderman's chair EVER!

Wow, now I trust everything.

And as far as Fioretti's BS fake ordinance, JUST

ANOTHER BS FAKEOUT TO SAVE FACE AGAINST HIS CONSTITUENT'S HATRED FOR THE GAMES. That ordinance will NEVER pass and he knew it when he introduced it.

The only line of BS that has changed from before is now two of the biggest scumbag aldermen in this city, and two of daley's best friends to boot, are now allegedly supposed to watch how the crime spree is dibursed.

Nothing has changed, Daley is now going to r@pe this city dry of money and turn it into detriot thanks to the lying scumbag aldermen laying down for a couple TIFF dollars to be spent in their ward.

Let's all see where that tiny percentage of TIF starts flowing now shall we?

amazing grace wrote:

How nice to see the 11th Ward Alderman DALEY'S LACKY in the photo...it somehow fitting....Gee, I wonder how many Alderman and their familes businesses will benefit from contract....? Why are they NOT forbidding any ALDERMAN and their families to do business??????? WHY NOT.....?

focus wrote:

This is amazing, 50 fools that will sign off on anything pushed in front of them, and then want hearings after public outcry. I hope people remember this in 2011, \$100,000 a year for a part-time job.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o570-57dVaU>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2NPG1wSnQE>

bluestatecowboys wrote:

Las Vegas has set the "over/under" at 2.5 for the number of current aldermen who will be in prison when the 2016 Olympics takes place -- no matter where the games are held.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4v5ihLIYKQ>

GOOD KING RICH

(Spoken Intro)

This is an open letter to the International Olympic Committee:

As you travel the world these next few months
Being wined and dined in five-star restaurants
In Madrid, Tokyo, and Rio De Janeiro, remember this:

You're upholding the proud tradition of your
predecessors,
Many of whom allegedly accepted bribes
In exchange for awarding the 2002 Winter Games
To that paragon of urban virtue - Salt Lake City, Utah

(Chorus)

Well, you can scrap that bid from old Madrid
Say adios to Spain
And just say no to Tokyo
With its fancy bullet train

And if you're ill at ease speakin' Portugese
Then Rio ain't your town
Oh, but Good King Rich, he'll scratch your itch
When he throws that cash around

(Verse)

Well, some folks say that it don't make sense
To hold the Games in the 312
They say our city's broke; schools are a joke
Well, friends, that just might be true

Oh, but Good King Rich, he'd rather fight than switch
You know how the story's gonna end
With all the King's family and all the King's friends
Lining their pockets again and again

(Repeat Chorus)

(Verse w/ tag)

From the two-flats and the bungalows
We applaud his every scheme
From a tax increase to a parking meter lease
He's helping us live the dream

Now with a wave of his hand and a line in the sand
He's gonna bring the Olympics home
So da_mn the torpedoes, full speed ahead
He's gonna get us a velodrome

We can't pay for salt when there's ice on the streets
But at least we'll have a velodrome

(Repeat Chorus (w/ tag))

Yeah, Good King Rich, he's gonna scratch your itch
When you bring those games to town

wizards23 wrote:

This is not a rubber-stamp City Council. There's give and
take. There's back-and-forth," he said. The taxpayers

"give" and Daley "takes". The "back and forth" is Daley and his croonies giving it to the taxpayer up the wazoo.

orion wrote:

Willie Cocharan, you are not running a laundremat anymore - this is the City of Chicago. Reviewing every contract over \$25K will grind progress to a halt.

THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS CAN BE FOUND AT:

http://newsblogs.chicagotribune.com/clout_st/2009/09/chicago-aldermen-embrace-olympics-plans.html#more

I'm glad I moved out of Chicago. I look at the people who own my old place as 'suckers'. Daley & the crooked City Council pat themselves on the back and whoop it up while spending other people's money.

I don't miss the 10.25% sales tax one bit either.

Posted by: Cash | September 10, 2009 at 08:02 AM

OH BOY! Daly is some piece of work. He has gone from ..we will have an insurance policy so taxpayers will not pay for any losses....but there has never been a city that has lost in the Olympics.. to Let's screw the Chicago taxpayer... AGAIN. Oh, by the way, Richie, EVERY city has lost money on the Olympics.

When are the TAXPAYERS of Chicago going to vote this person out of office????We need to get rid of the alderman too. Let's stop being their pansies.

I hope I get my property sold by the time 2016 comes around!!!!

Posted by: Gail Soberski

Most of us got a water bill a few weeks ago. That bill was about \$10 more than the last instalment. That was a Daley family added value tax. Let me explain.

Almost all of the trucks used in the truck for hire scandal were used by the water department. Remember that John Daley's brother-in-law was convicted of ghost payrolling at the water department. Daley's son and nephew got a contract to clean sewers for the water department. And when Daley's nephew raided the city pension funds for investment money he bought a warehouse that was storing trucks for the water department that they bought after the truck for hire scandal. The water department had a month-to-month lease so no city council approval was needed. The cost of the lease went up 600% after Vanecko bought the property. DO YOU SEE THE PATTERN HERE? Now imagine what these people can do if we get the Olympics!

Posted by: NorthSide TaxPayer

GO RIO!

Posted by: Chicago Citizen

The day we get the Olympics is the day I say goodbye to

this fat, bloated city of pigs.

Posted by: Chicago Joe

Funny how some people want this, I know of no one. Put it to a vote...it will lose. Fitzgerald, please, please, get this creep out of office...

Posted by: dumpdaley

The rubber stamps stamp again.

Posted by: Pete |

NOlympics!

Posted by: nothin' left in my pockets but lint |

There is no way an Olympic village can be built for less than proposed. Remember Millennium Park? I concur, time to start fighting our the Daley's and all who go along with this circus!

Posted by: chicagoguy

Here's what I don't understand. In Congress, it's common for a Senator or Congressman to have an opinion on a bill, but that his constituents of on the other side. So, if the winning side doesn't need his vote, he can vote the way his constituents feel, without risk of angering his party's leadership. This was the case, when Congress voted for the bailout of the banks. Why doesn't anyway ask for this kind of dispensation from the Mayor? Is it that hard to say, "Mr. Mayor, I completely agree with you, but if I vote with you, your army of campaign workers simply can't get me re-elected. Please let me vote against you without repercussion. You'll have my vote the next time a vote appears to be very close."

Posted by: Chuck

I'm certainly glad that Suarez thinks that "It will make Chicago a world-class city," he said. Whew...finally we'll be a city worth something. WHAT? Aren't we a world-class city already? I'm out of here if we get the Olympics. We'll be bilked for millions and millions of tax dollars as the project will overrun their budgets day one. We're f'd.

Posted by: Mr.B

Let's say the Olympics fail financially. SOME people will have come to Chicago, stayed in a hotel or motel, eaten food, bought 'stuff', etc. It was my impression that Chicago had a sales tax, an entertainment tax, and a tax on hotel and motel room rentals among others. Oops, I forgot city income tax - from cab drivers, employees at eating establishments, and all manner of other people. Because Police and Fire pay income tax, I suspect that some of their overtime will go back to the city. Even in an Olympics that does not do well at the gate, the city will collect some (extra) tax that the city would not have

otherwise. These extra tax revenues are what hosting the Olympics are about anyway.

Posted by: Ed

Like this is news... You know it is a slow news day in Chicago when Rod and the Olympics are on the front page. Why wouldn't the Alderman put the taxpayers on the line? That's what they do everyday.

Now if you have any money in retirement or pensions -- end your contributions now -- trust me these politicians will take out a loan on the pension funds to fund the Olympics. How soon til election day?

Posted by: Ed Kasprzycki

I don't see anyone protesting in their faces at City Hall. That's exactly what it will take to restore any sense of democratic representation in our municipal government. But people are too fat, too low on energy carrying all that lard around all day. They'd rather type and call it a day.

Posted by: Guy

This is hardly surprising. Don't think medical science has advanced enough for the alderman to get spine transplants since the fiasco about the parking meters deal was exposed. Our only hope now is that the IOC gets a bigger bribe from one of the other host city candidates and let's Chicago off the the hook. Here's hoping that mayor Daley's quest for the 2016 Olympics will put the final nail in the coffin of machine politics Chicago style. Are you listening Patrick Fitzgerald?

Posted by: Lee Majella

To all those that have decided to leave the city, don't forget to pay your exit tax. Those taxpayers left behind are going to need the money to help offset the cost of the freeloaders and the olympics.

Posted by: Think Before You Vote |

Haven't these guys learned if you can't afford something, you just don't buy it? Why should city taxpayers cough up the cash? I'm sooooo glad in live in the 'burbs...but then, they'll probably find a way to put part of the burden on the suburban taxpayers, too...particularly if you live in Cook County. For that matter, the state of Illinois will pay their share. Get ready, downstate farmers!

Posted by: Vote 'em all out

Does anyone have contact info for the IOC so we can let them know how we feel about the games coming to Chicago?

Posted by: Emily

If the Olympics make money, and lately they haven't, do the taxpayer get the profit? No the taxpayers only get the debt. The rich guys get the profit. Don't forget they are worth it.

Posted by: Dougmohns

If they can find money for the Olympics, they can find money for the homeless, stop the killing of kids and improve Chicago's school system. If we are put on the hook for paying something then we should have a vote in it. Well you know what maybe we should reconsider who we vote for.

Posted by: PCarr

this will be like the parking meter mess.
when things go wrong, they will say they didnt know what they were voting on.

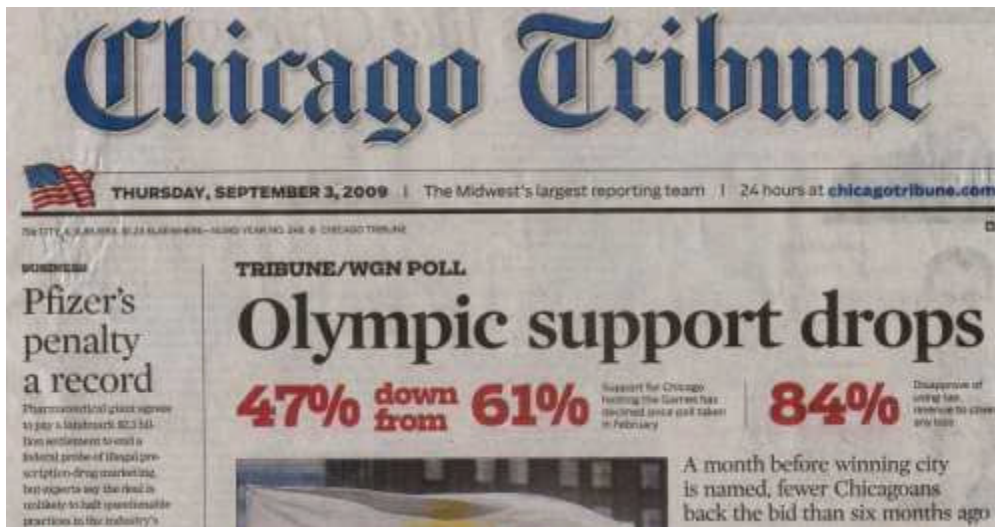
Posted by: mike h

of course they will screw that taxpayer. And the lemmings will keep wanting this scam. GO RIO .. THIS IS NOT A DEMOCRACY FOLKS. and please people. theres no cleaning house like you think. they will just cart in more crooks. Nothing will change untill there is literally a revolt on the steps of city hall.

Posted by: meesohawnee

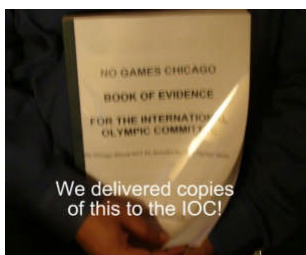
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No Games Chicago Update 20 Days To Decision Daily News

September 11, 2009



[Visit our web site and download the "Book of Evidence" that we delivered to you in Lausanne!](#)

[Open letter to the IOC:](#)
 "Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:



This letter from today's Chicago Sun-Times sums up what most people here are feeling.



[An Olympic-sized risk for taxpayers](#)

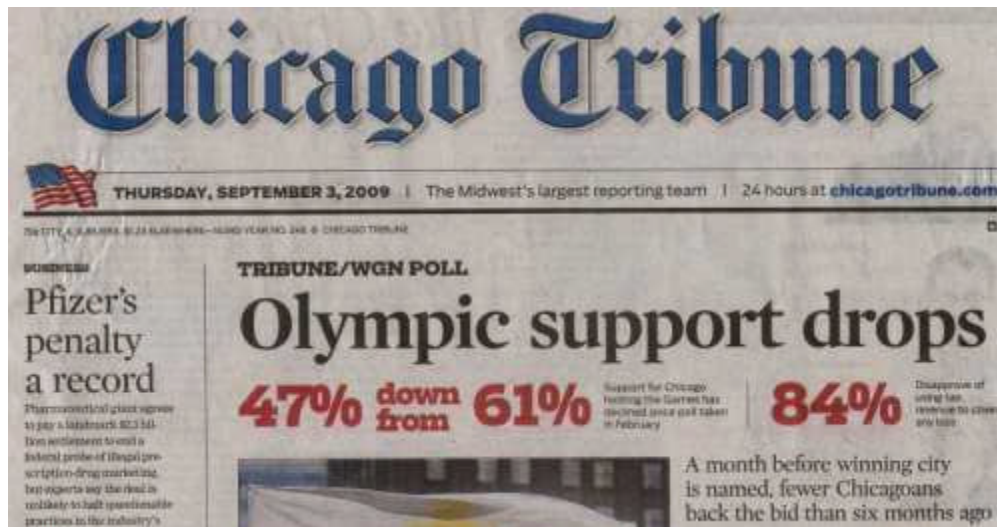
September 11, 2009

Once again, the Mayor Daley cadre has universally rubber stamped a taxpayer obligation to foot any Olympic overruns should Chicago get the 2016 Games. Alderman Joe Moore had the nerve to make an impassioned speech declaring that the citizens are correct to question this obligation but voted for it anyway. Talk about gutless. Talk is cheap. The Olympics will be very, very expensive.

Mike Koskiewicz,
Portage Park

Email Marketing by





No Games Chicago Update 19 Days To Decision Daily News

September 12, 2009

The People Speak

I just wanted to basically say that in my opinion Chicago should not get the Olympics. We supposedly have so many budget deficits. How are we going to be able to afford this. It's ridiculous. And Mayor Daley do need to get his priorities in check because the crime rate...get that in order first. You know what I mean. We have so many other things to take care of. And he's so worried about the

[2016 bid torch passed to Michelle Obama](#)

First lady -- not president -- to fly to Copenhagen to help make final pitch for Chicago to land Games

Katherine Skiba, Kathy Bergen and Philip Hersh - Chicago Tribune reporters - September 12, 2009

First Lady Michelle Obama will lead a delegation to Copenhagen next month for the vote on whether Chicago beats three rivals to win the 2016 Summer Olympic Games.

But the White House announcement Friday trumpeting the first lady's high-profile mission did little to extinguish a question that burns as brightly as the Olympic torch: Will the popular first lady ultimately let her husband take the lead in the hour long presentation before the International Olympic Committee's vote on Oct. 2?

On Friday afternoon, amid heavy speculation over whether the president would travel to Copenhagen to try to seal a deal, White House officials revealed that Mrs. Obama would serve as an ambassador for Chicago 2016 when it states its case for the bid over Madrid, Tokyo and Rio de Janeiro.

Olympics. Give it to somebody else 'cause they deserve it. We don't, we don't need it.

Latisha, Chicago
Call in comment to the "Gerrard McClendon Live" television show, September 2, 2009



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[Open letter to the IOC:](#)
"Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"

In announcing Mrs. Obama's loftiest assignment yet, White House officials said President Barack Obama on Friday informed the president of the International Olympic Committee, Jacques Rogge, that the effort to pass health-care reform "keeps him from committing at this time to travel to Copenhagen on Oct. 2."

"At this time" was the operative phrase that seemed to leave open the prospect of a last-minute surprise trip by the president.

Mrs. Obama will be accompanied by Valerie Jarrett, a White House senior adviser, longtime friend and big backer of bringing the Games to Chicago. A group of athletes and celebrities is expected to join them.

"There is no doubt in my mind that Chicago would offer the world a fantastic setting for these historic games," Mrs. Obama said in a statement, "and I hope that the Olympic torch will have the chance to burn brightly in my hometown."

Mayor Richard Daley said he was "thrilled" that the first lady was going.

"As a lifelong resident of our city, Michelle's passion for Chicago is contagious," he said in a statement, adding, "This is not just Chicago's bid, it is America's bid."

At a news conference in Chicago, Patrick Ryan, CEO of Chicago 2016, applauded the choice and termed Chicago's bid historic, citing "total cohesion" in support "from City Hall to the state capitol to the White House." Still, reporters asked: Is the door closed to a presidential trip?

Ryan said the White House statement spoke for itself, adding: "I think Michelle Obama will represent our country, our city and our bid tremendously. ... This vote is not going to be decided based on how many political leaders are going to be there."

One observer said the announcement that Mrs. Obama would take the lead convinced him that the president would indeed show up at the 11th hour, creating a bigger splash.

"This is a great strategy to generate much more interest and to have a much greater entrance," said sports industry expert Marc Ganis, president of SportsCorp Ltd. "His wife can go and represent him. It's someone senior from the White House and someone who's much better than Valerie Jarrett, who's a lovely lady but does not have the gravitas of the president or Michelle.



"And watch, Barack will show up almost unannounced, for a couple hours," Ganis said. "He'll give his commitment, look IOC members in the eye and say, 'I want your vote.' The same day he'll be back on Air Force One and back in Washington. This is a wonderful David Axelrod moment."

Axelrod, a top White House adviser from Chicago, spearheaded President Obama's campaign.

The first lady, whose approval ratings approach or exceed 70 percent, is sure to add substance and sizzle by virtue of two Ivy League degrees, a spot on Vanity Fair's International Best Dressed List and her advocacy of a host of pet issues including support for military families, healthy eating and education.

High-profile lobbyists have held sway in the past. Britain's Tony Blair and Russia's Vladimir Putin helped persuade IOC members before their countries won Olympic Games set for 2012 and 2014.

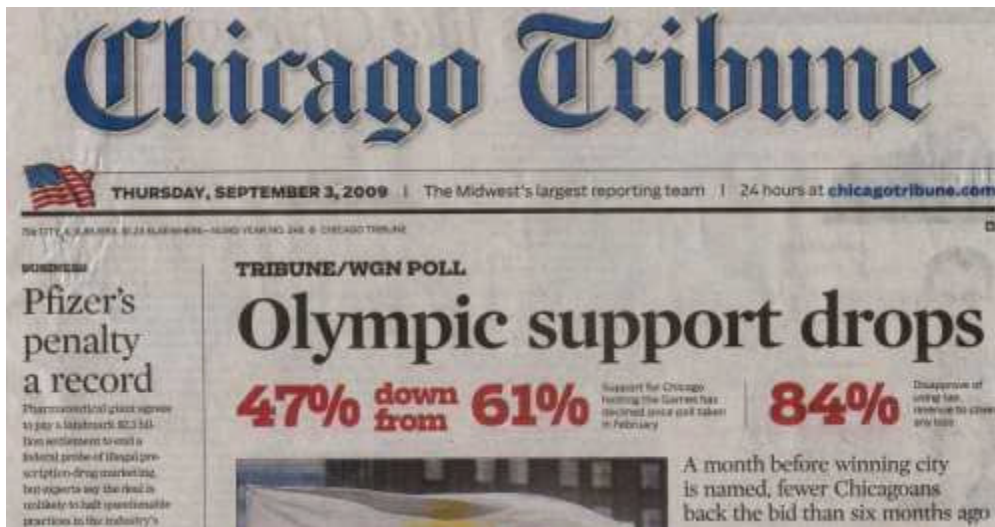
This time, a large cast of VIPs -- including King Juan Carlos of Spain, Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and possibly the Japanese royal family -- will go to Copenhagen to push for their countries.

Next Wednesday, the Obamas will welcome Olympic and Paralympic athletes to the White House to advance Chicago's bid, and questions about whether the president will appear in Copenhagen are bound to persist.

Olympics historian Kevin Wamsley of the University of Western Ontario said the first lady's presence is unlikely to carry as much weight as the president's could. "He does have a presence, and it's a little more overwhelming than other international leaders," Wamsley said. "My guess is that a lot of minds may be made up, but there may be little bit of a swing vote."

One person who didn't think that the president's presence would matter was IOC member Pernilla Wiberg of Sweden, an Olympic champion alpine skier in the 1990s.

"I think the people from Chicago will be able to do a very good job with or without President Barack Obama," she said in an e-mail. "If he comes I would love to say hello, but I am sure it will not make me vote in one way or the other!"



No Games Chicago Update 18 Days To Decision Daily News

September 13, 2009

The People Speak

Daley's mismanagement of Chicago was hidden by a booming national economy throughout the 90s and from 03-07. It took a bad recession to see the full effects of his poor management. Now he expects people to believe he can complete Olympic projects on time and on budget when his track record for most major projects is pitiful.

Daley has Olympic



As Olympics vote looms, Daley struggles

By Dan Mihaleopoulos
 TRIBUNE REPORTER

Mayor Richard Daley often talks about how Chicagoans want a decisive, visionary leader who can get things done without "endless politics," and that promise of iron control has become key to the city's bid to host the 2016 Summer Olympics.

But with the pivotal Olympic decision three weeks away, Daley finds himself in one of the most troubled periods of his long reign.

Daley's decision to lease the city parking

Olympics
 For the first time since he became mayor two decades ago, Daley's critics outnumber his fans, a Tribune/WGN poll found. The mayor's approval rating is at an all-time low of 38 percent in Tribune polls, according to the new survey.

None of this is to suggest that Daley is losing his dominance of the City Council or his lustre with the city's business elite. There is no serious challenger on the horizon if Daley, who regularly wins re-election by landslide, chooses to run for a seventh term in 2011. Even more than his legendary father, the 67-year-old Daley

Mayor Daley is now extremely unpopular in Chicago and his pushing of the 2016 Olympics has contributed to his historically low approval ratings. Despite what you are being told, the people of Chicago do NOT want the 2016 Olympics to come here.

tunnel vision. He believes they are a panacea for all of Chicago's ills. The problem is the man has absolutely no Plan B or alternate vision if Chicago does not get the Olympics. It's time to dump this tired, paranoid old fool who has drained the taxpayers for the benefit of his family and friends.

[A reader comments](#) on the Chicago Tribune article, "As Olympic vote looms, Daley struggles"

[As Olympics vote looms, Daley struggles](#)

Dan Mihalopoulos - Chicago Tribune - September 13, 2009

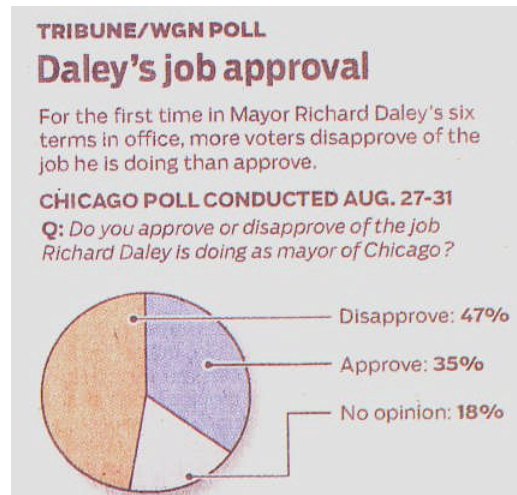
...But with the pivotal Olympics decision three weeks away, Daley finds himself in one of the most troubled periods of his long reign. Daley's decision to lease the city parking meter system left motorists furious over skyrocketing rates and balky machines. Then he fumbled in explaining his promise that taxpayers would cover potential losses from the Olympics.

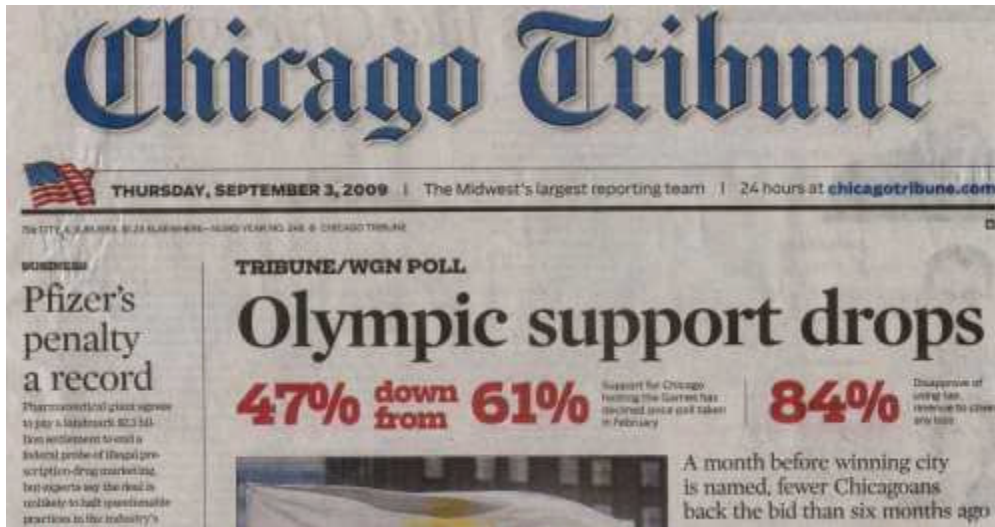
For the first time since he became mayor two decades ago, Daley's critics outnumber his fans, a Tribune/WGN poll found. The mayor's approval rating is at an all-time low of 35 percent in Tribune polls, according to the new survey.



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[Open letter to the IOC:](#)
"Why you don't want to give the





No Games Chicago Update 17 Days To Decision Daily News

September 14, 2009

The People Speak

WHY!!!!!! Why are you doing this.. We already pay the highest taxes in all of the United States. Do you really have to do this... Have you guys not learned anything from Atlanta! Sad really sad.....

Marisa Moy,
 Chicago

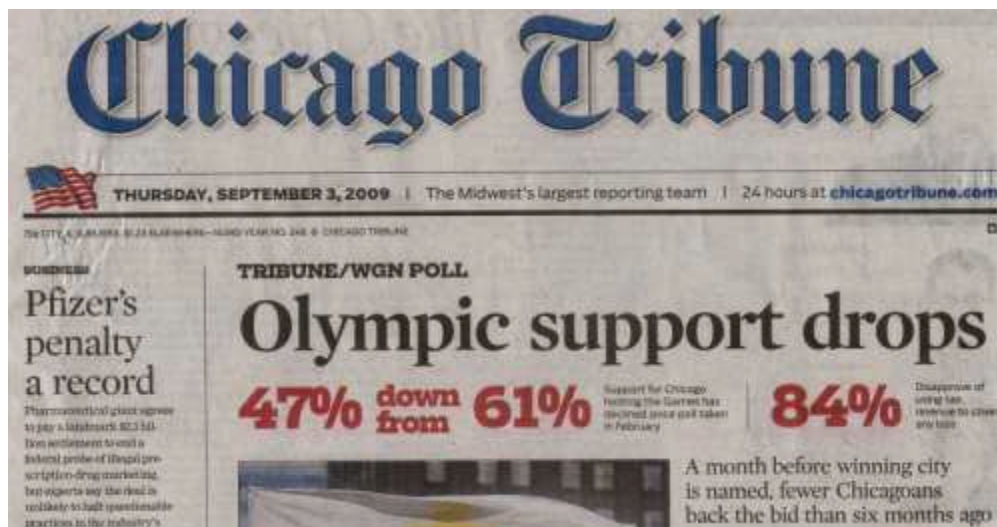
Signer of No Games Chicago online petition

Sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words...



From Crain's Chicago Business, September 14, 2009.

Chicago is NOT ready to take this leap for the Mayor!



No Games Chicago Update

16 Days To Decision

Daily News

September 15, 2009

The People Speak

With the shocking increase in crime in Lincoln Park and Lakeview, we need to be spending money on city services, not these games which will certainly bankrupt the city. The promise of federal assistance is Mayor Daley's only hope of keeping Chicago from collapsing.

Ed Linn,
Chicago

Signer of No Games
Chicago online

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

Crain's Chicago Business is our premier weekly business publication. This report ran today on their web site.

They report what we at No Games Chicago have known for some time - namely, that public support for the 2016 bid has dissolved and the 2106 Committee is getting desperate to try to shore up its failing status. They go from one bad idea to another, as this report documents.

[Chicago 2016 launches last-ditch ad push](#)

Jeremy Mullman - Sept. 15, 2009

(Crain's) - Chicago's bid to host the 2016 Summer Olympics has had no shortage of marketing firepower at its disposal: Nearly all of the major creative agencies in the nation's No. 2 agency market -including Leo Burnett, Ogilvy & Mather, Downtown Partners and others - have pitched in to help craft ads and presentations in support of the bid.

But for all the creative firepower aimed primarily at persuading the judges of the International Olympic Committee, the bid hasn't spent as much time or energy persuading Chicagoans that winning the games is a worthwhile goal, and that may wind up undermining its

petition



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[Open letter to the IOC:](#)
"Why you don't want to give the Olympics to Chicago"

efforts.

[A Chicago Tribune poll earlier this month found that only 47% of Chicagoans supported the city's bid](#) to host the games, a potentially devastating blow so close to the Oct. 2 decision deadline.

People close to the situation said organizers have leaned on mostly favorable coverage in local newspapers and TV shows to make their case but were caught off-guard by that news, which will almost certainly be wielded by rival cities such as Rio de Janeiro, Tokyo and Madrid in their own bids to host the games. "I think they were shocked," said one person close to the bid. "And now they know it's going to be used against them."

So, in a last-ditch effort to generate local enthusiasm, [organizers last week began broadcasting audio messages supporting the bid on city buses](#). If Twitter is any indication (search for "CTA" and "2016") the appeals from former Olympians are doing more harm than good, as sentiment toward the "propaganda" is overwhelmingly negative.

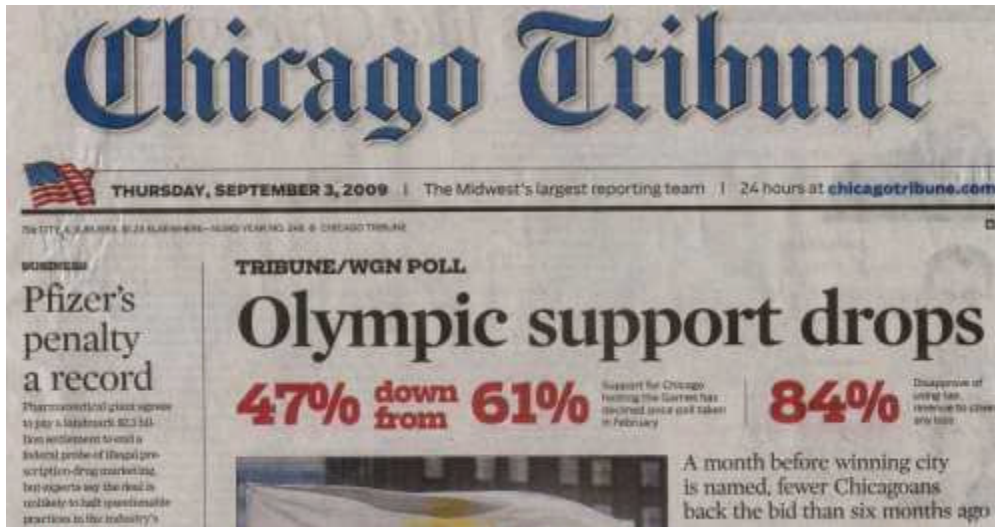
"It doesn't demonstrate public support and in fact will only erode whatever support exists," [wrote Chicago Tribune columnist Steve Chapman](#), in a piece that mirrored the sentiment of many posts. "No one likes being aurally assaulted while part of a captive audience."

The bid also last week launched a series of print and radio ads intended to tout the potential positive economic impact that hosting the games could have for Chicago and the surrounding region.

But in the weeks and months before the recent spate of messages, the local dialogue concerning the impact of the games has largely centered around who pays for it, and a controversial provision that could leave city taxpayers on the hook for certain cost overruns. Those sorts of concerns tend to be particularly potent in a city where citizens have become accustomed to daily headlines about corruption probes in city and state government.

There are also persistent worries about the traffic and congestion that will surround construction for the games, and over whether the city's public-transit system could handle the increased traffic that would come with the Olympics.

Chicago 2016 Chief Brand Officer Mark Mitten last week referred an inquiry to a spokesman, who did not return a phone call. A subsequent call to the Chicago 2016 media line was not returned.



No Games Chicago Update 15 Days To Decision Daily News

September 16, 2009

The People Speak

The aldermanic backbone was only that of a very few and momentary at best as evidenced by the unanimous cave in of the vote. We citizens are on the hook just as the IOC wants it. The IOC is not willing to take on any risk for its self which of course is why it is so high on their list of host city

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

The editorial cartoon in today's Chicago Sun-Times expresses the sentiments of 84% of Chicago citizens.



[Today's Chicago Tribune has a front page story, "Sorting out bid's true cost"](#) that contradicts the 2016 Committee's repeated claims that "not one penny of taxpayer funds has been or will be used

requirements prior to holding the vote. IOC is beholden to no one, no city, no state, no government, no country. NO ONE.

Yet, who ever is the bid "winner", a questionable term, is beholden, held hostage if you will, to the IOC and its governance of the games, not the "winners" own citizenry. At least not until after the fact, when of course "oversite" comes into play. In this instant, oversite becomes an oxymoron, even a lie, as there is no F.O.I.A..that applies. No FO.I.A. anywhere on this earth that applies to the IOC. None, Nada, Nunca, Zip.

Oversite comes after the fact. The only party left holding the bag are the only ones not invited to the party, you and me, the

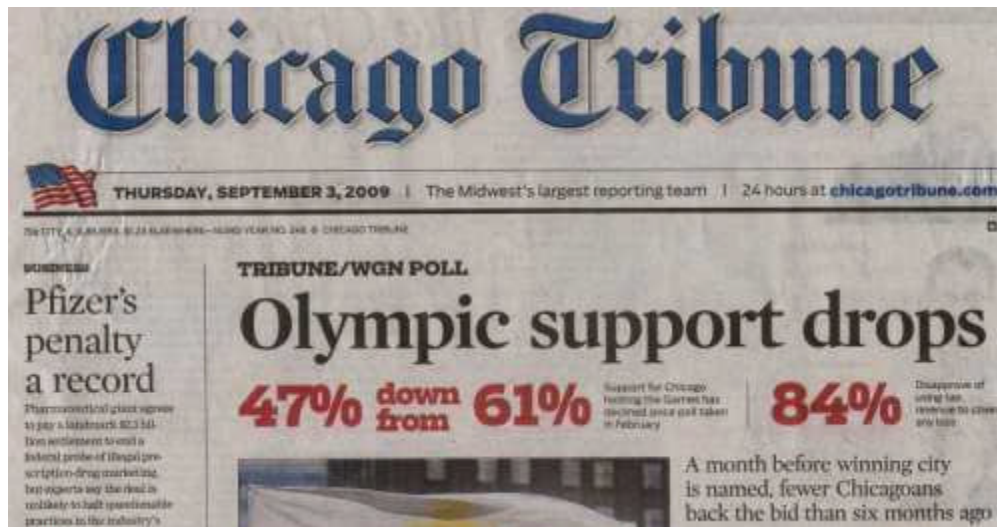
for the 2016 Olympics." [They compiled a chart of expenses](#) that tops \$2 billion and has several "unknown" figures that alarm citizens with fears of costs that could spiral out of control.

taxpayers.
The IOC wants you to have all the liability, as does the Chicago City Council, Pat Ryan and his 2016 bid committee, Mayor Daley, the State of Illinois, and "Chicago politics lite" the Obama administration.

[Comment at Chicago Sun-Timesonline blog](#)

Email Marketing by





No Games Chicago Update

14 Days To Decision

Daily News

September 17, 2009

The People Speak

According to Wikipedia, Millennium Park was "finished four years behind schedule and cost approximately three times as much as was initially budgeted." I don't think the Olympic venues will be any different. I figure that since the Olympics won't get delayed, the overtime will kill

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

The Chicago Tribune's John Kass today reveals that Mayor Daley originally dismissed the idea of seeking the Olympics for Chicago. "The Olympics is a construction industry," he told the Rotary Club in 2004. "They wanted \$2 million from me just to make a proposal! They want to build everything new." But his administration became plagued with scandal and several of his highest ranking officials were arrested, convicted and sent to prison. He then became an Olympic advocate to divert attention from the failings of his administration.

[May the farce be with you, Obama and Daley](#)

John Kass - September 17, 2009

Some think President Barack Obama was playing Zorro on the White House lawn Wednesday, fencing with an Olympic foil, with Mayor Richard Daley looking on.

Others figured the president was Han Solo to the mayoral Yoda, foreshadowing a climactic scene to come in Copenhagen, Obama swooping in on Air Force One as if it were the Millennium (Park) Falcon, heroically rescuing the tiny-legged, verbally challenged sage.

us tax wise. I have no confidence in the city being able to do it on time and budget.

Secondly, I have talked to many people about this and no one wants the Olympics here. I'm not sure where the polls are being taken, but it's not by my associates. Ironically, co-workers in Madrid don't want it there either.

Finally, I had read that the opening ceremonies could cost \$1,800.00 per person. Even in the best of economies, how many Chicagoans can afford to go to that? I'm not talking about Oprah, Obama, Daley, etc. I'm talking about the normal, middle class.

[Comment on John Kass's column posted to the Chicago](#)

But please, let's not get bogged down in confusing mythic symbolism.

The message from President Obama was real clear politics:

Chicago's president of the United States wants Chicago's political boss happy and hosting the 2016 Olympic Games.

"Chicago is ready, the American people are ready," said the president, with about two weeks until the International Olympic Committee meets in Copenhagen to decide whether Chicago gets the Olympic payoff. "We want these Games."

But a recent Tribune poll showed mixed feelings. People might not be crazy about the Games, but Daley sure is. He reaches for the Olympics the way a drowning man reaches for a floating chunk of wood.

And if Daley doesn't get the Olympics -- if the IOC chooses Rio, Tokyo or Madrid -- don't be surprised if this becomes the mayor's last term.

Because, after a 20-year spending spree, the money is finally gone. Daley is now so desperate for cash that he allowed parking meter rates to be increased, knowing there would be a public backlash.

Now he needs that Olympic gold, to pass it out among the hungry interests and maintain control. His Olympic push is not about sport. It's never been about sport. The Olympic theme song and wondering who might carry the torch down Michigan Avenue has been part of the children's fairy tale.

But grown-ups know that the Chicago Olympics are about keeping Daley in power. Period. It began four years ago, just as big business and labor and the guys behind the guys started wondering if Daley was weakening. A boss thought to be weak is a boss in danger. So just getting to this point has been a masterful political stroke on the part of the mayor.

In August 2004, Daley was busy ridiculing the idea of a Chicago Olympics.

"The Olympics is a construction industry," he told the Rotary Club. "They wanted \$2 million from me just to make a proposal! They want to build everything new."

Back then, he was in trouble. The Hired Truck scandal was widening. Daley's administration was also under siege by another federal investigation into the wholesale abuse of political patronage through the mayor's office. Taxpayers subsidized Daley's political troops who were working the precincts and controlling elections.

[Tribune](#)

In December 2004, Daley loyalist and water department boss Donald Tomczak was charged with bribery. Tomczak's illegal patronage army of hundreds of workers helped elect then-U.S. Rep. Rahm Emanuel (D-Tomczak) to office. Emanuel is now Obama's chief of staff.

In May 2005, the feds raided the mayor's offices with search warrants. On July 18, 2005, Daley patronage chief Robert Sorich and others were charged with fraud. Daley would soon be sitting down with federal prosecutors, giving his own deposition on corruption matters.

But one week after Sorich and others were charged in the July 18 indictments, the mayor formally changed his tune and started backing the Olympics for Chicago.

"It would be done with private money," said the mayor. "This is a big-ticket item that ... we should look at very carefully."

In the weeks leading up to that announcement, Daley privately began offering a choice to establishment Chicago:

Get on the Olympic bus with the mayor or get left behind. No CEO could afford to be left behind. They jumped on, as did the rest of the power players.

That was Daley's brilliance. The 2016 Olympics became the mortar keeping his brick house from collapsing. If he wins the Olympics, he'll stay boss for years.

Even the president, who once vowed to transcend the cynical politics of the past, jumped on board. Why not? The guys running the Obama White House come direct from Daley's City Hall.

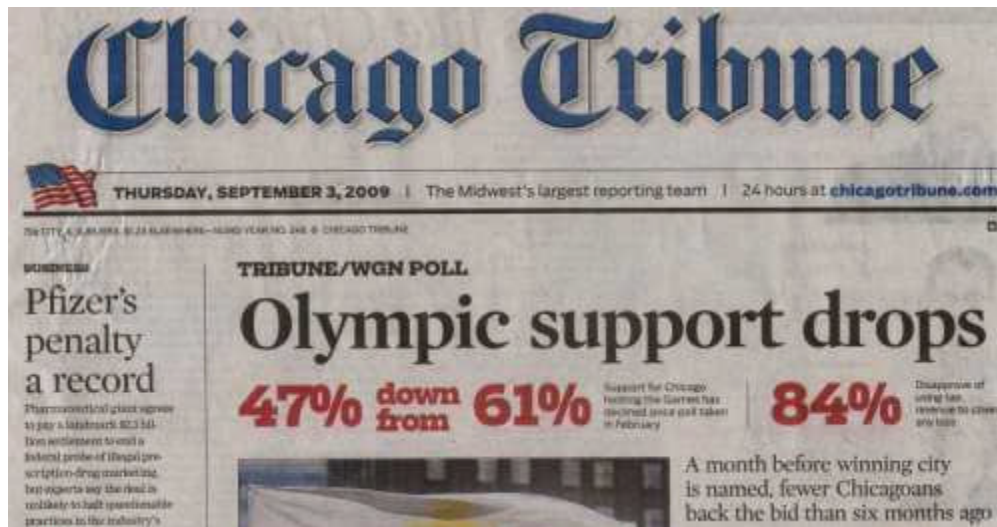
On Wednesday, as the president joked around with swords, First Lady Michelle Obama offered a reality check. She'll accompany Daley to the Oct. 2 IOC meeting in Copenhagen.

Don't be shocked if the president makes a "surprise" appearance and wins the day.

"You should have seen the president in there fencing, it was pathetic," Mrs. Obama laughed. "But he passed the baton really well."

Actually, Daley passed the baton. And now it can't be dropped.

It is handed from Chicago's boss to his presidential anchorman, in the most important political relay of Daley's life.



No Games Chicago Update 13 Days To Decision Daily News

September 18, 2009

The People Speak

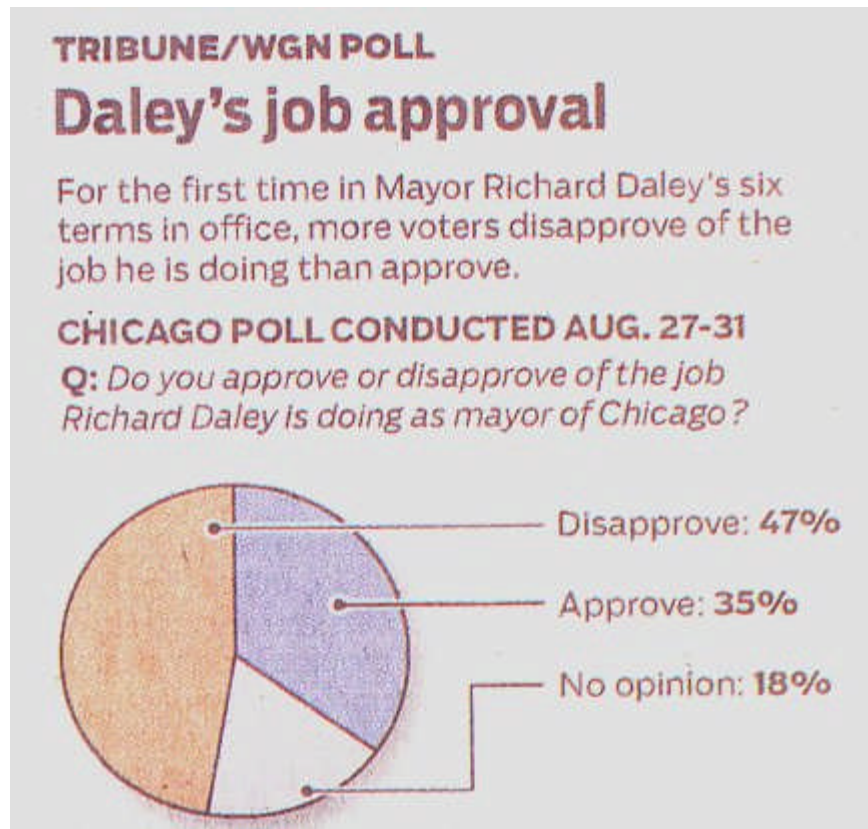
Chicago does not have a sufficient infrastructure to host an event of this magnitude. One only need to look at Millennium Park to see that huge delays and huge cost overruns are the hallmark of the Daley administration. Goodness knows what

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

Today we're sending you updates on various scandals relating to local government here. Hardly a day goes by without some local official being caught or sentenced for some misdeed. Chicago is experiencing a political tsunami as a consequence of Mayor Daley's scandal plagued administration. Scandals at the county and state level also reflect poorly on the Mayor as he controls state Democratic politics.

Daley would sell to the highest bidder to pay for this - naming rights to the city?

Michael Matlock, Chicago No Games online petition signer



[City: Chicago police scandal: 4 cops in special unit sentenced after pleading guilty in long-running probe](#)

Chicago police officers assigned to the elite Special Operations Section stole nearly half a million dollars after targeting a Hispanic man driving an expensive car and withheld insulin from another man until he told them where he hid cash and cocaine, prosecutors alleged Friday.

The new details came as four former officers became the first to plead guilty in the long-running state and federal investigation that contributed to the early retirement of Police Supt. Phil Cline.

[County: Stroger upset with leaked subpoena](#)

Cook County Board President Todd Stroger said today that a subpoena for financial records tied to a "current grand jury investigation" was leaked to the news media by county commissioners who put politics ahead of "what's good for the government."

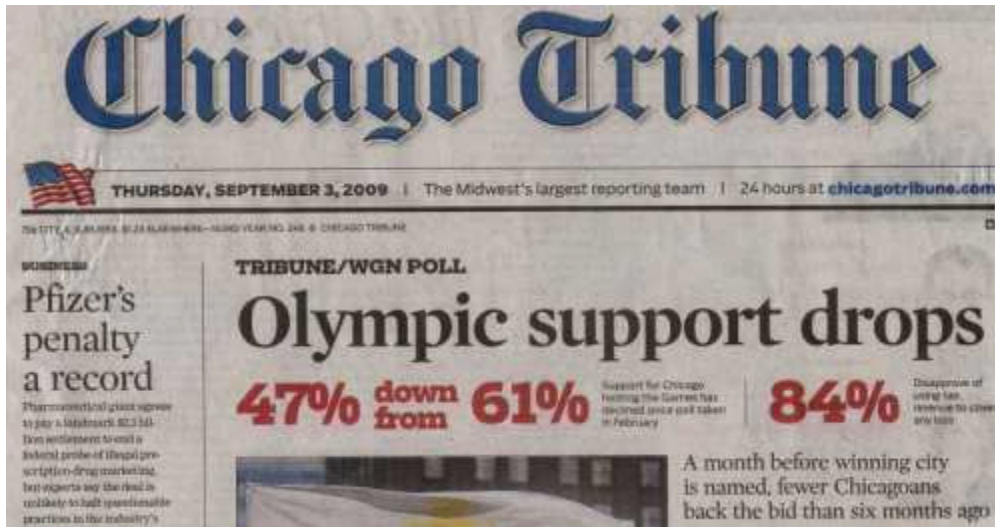
Cook County prosecutors issued the subpoena last month for records from Deloitte and Touche LLP, used in the "customary preparation" of the 2008 annual audit of county finances.

[State: Patti denies taking charity's donor list IT'S 'MY LIST' | Accused of using it to contact people to promote ex-gov's book](#)

A fuming Patti Blagojevich fired back Thursday at "galling" allegations that she absconded with a contact list from her old job at a charity so she could promote her husband's new book. In an interview with the Chicago Sun-Times, Blagojevich said she took no such list from the Chicago Christian Industrial League, despite public comments from an official with the group who accused her of acting unethically.

Email Marketing by





No Games Chicago Update

12 Days To Decision

Daily News

September 19, 2009

The People Speak

Chicago is no position to even consider hosting the 2016 olympics. Our educational system is in a shambles, we have one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation, we have one of largest budget deficits in history, and the crime rate is seriously out of control.

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

Ben Joravsky, one of Chicago's most distinguished political reporters, [has this advice for President Obama with regard to visiting you in Copenhagen](#):

"Near as anyone can tell, the race to host the 2016 Olympics has come down to Chicago versus Rio. Most accounts have Madrid and Tokyo falling further behind as the International Olympic Committee gears up to make its decision on October 2.

A crucial factor seems to be President Obama. If he shows up in Copenhagen to charm the IOC delegates, Chicago will probably prevail. If he doesn't, the favorite is Rio. But even as Mayor Daley and other Olympic boosters urge him on, Obama isn't making any promises-he's said only that the First Lady will be there to make a pitch for Chicago. The media's also calling on him to go: on September 11 the Sun-Times even ran an open letter to the president, begging him to catch that plane for Europe, and the Trib followed suit four

In my opinion, the resources being spent to lobby the IOC, would be better spent repairing some of the ills we're facing right now.

Anonymous,
Chicago
No Games online
petition signer

days later.

Well, here's my advice: Don't go, Mr. President.

It's not just that you have more important things to do-remember that little health care problem?-or that the games are looking like bad news for your cash-strapped hometown, since they're sure to mutilate the parks and gobble up billions of dollars that could otherwise go to needy schools and city departments that are reducing services as basic as trash collection.

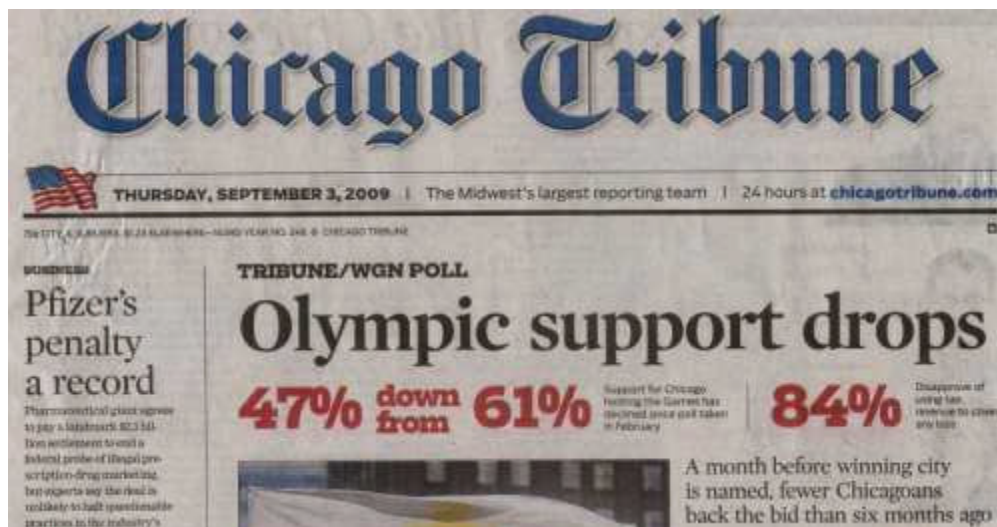
It's that having the games in Chicago will ultimately be bad for you and detrimental to all that you want to accomplish.

Once you make a grand pitch for Daley's games, they'll become your games too. Every scandal, cost overrun, and delay (and you were around this town long enough to know there will be plenty of each) will be laid at your feet by Rush Limbaugh, Glenn Beck, Sarah Palin, and all your other haters.

If you forgot how dirty Chicago politics can be, read Blago's book and remember you were lucky to get out of this swamp. Don't be foolish enough to dive back in."

Email Marketing by





No Games Chicago Update 11 Days To Decision Daily News

September 20, 2009

The People Speak

I have figured out a way to fund the Olympics and keep everyone in the city happy, even all the folks like me who do not want the Olympics here: All the rich people in the TV ads for the Olympics can put their money up as a guarantee since they seem so sure that it would be great

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

The League of Women Voters is a 79-year old organization that promotes civic engagement and informed voting in all elections. The organization was started in Chicago. Their members and leaders are among the most informed and active citizens in our city.

Today the [Chicago League of Women Voters](#) went on record opposing Chicago's 2016 Olympic bid.

[Questionable Olympics plan](#)

Chicago Tribune - September 20, 2009

The League of Women Voters of Chicago opposes the selection of Chicago as the site of the 2016 Summer Olympics. We do so in reliance on the principle of our organization that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the people's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed

for the city.

Skip Feats,
Chicago

Letter to The
Chicago Tribune,
September 20

actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.

Preparation of the Chicago bid to host the 2016 Olympics did not provide us with adequate notice of the proposal as it developed, and we had no opportunity to comment or question aspects of the proposal.

Many questions exist; the bid proposal, ostensibly a privately developed plan, relies on substantial public funding and facilities. With declining revenue to fund existing city and Park District costs, what sources exist to fund construction of the Olympics facilities? Will TIF funds be used? And from which TIF districts? On what basis does the Olympics planning committee believe that the federal government will provide the funds for transit repair and extension or the security costs?

Our organization believes that the parks should be used for public recreation only, consistent with and enhancing their aesthetic quality. Buildings should be kept to a minimum. Funds should be distributed equitably for maintenance and development of parks throughout the city. Construction of the venues in the parks will eliminate open space for residents' use. This is space in which an individual can walk, children can play games and families can gather.

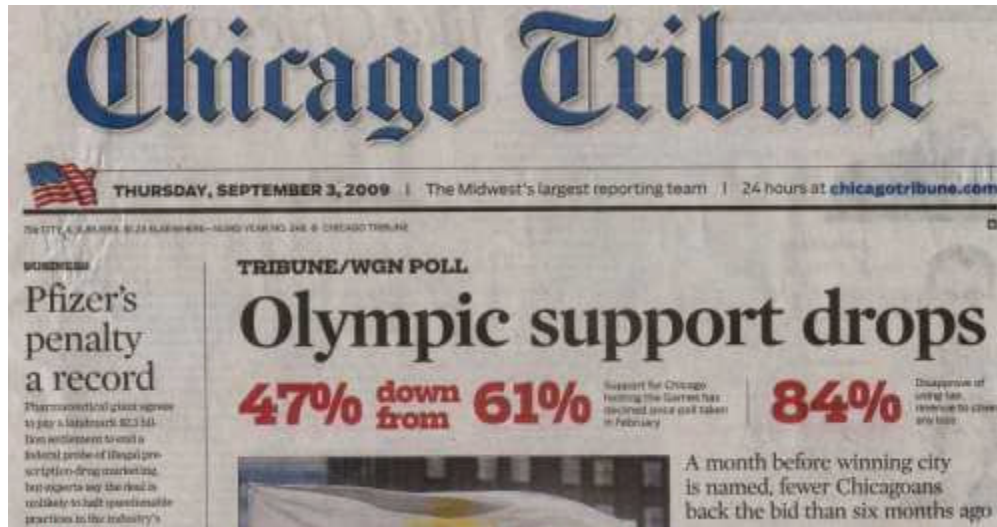
A separate concern is the lengthy withdrawal of park facilities from public use. Areas of Washington, Douglas and Jackson Parks will be closed to the public during construction and the post-Olympics facilities will eliminate residents' unstructured use of open space. Also, will park maintenance and programs continue unaffected by the Olympics preparations? Or will these decline to provide funds for the construction? The preparation of the Chicago Olympics bid occupied years and the plan relies on public money from all levels of government. Yet only recently have public meetings been held throughout the city. The people can comment, but we cannot influence either the proposal or the decision to seek selection as the site of the 2016 Olympics. The Chicago bid to host the 2016 Olympics was undemocratic and

unworthy of the great city in which we live.

-- Esta Kallen, president,
-- Margaret Herring, board member,
League of Women Voters of Chicago

Email Marketing by





No Games Chicago Update

10 Days To Decision

Daily News

September 21, 2009

The People Speak

The problem is not going to rest solely at the city level. You know that when push comes to shove His Honor will be asking the state to kick in money because "The costs were so unexpectedly high and the Olympics brought fame and money to Illinois as well as Chicago."

His Honor and Mr Ryan would make me feel a lot better if both of them would pledge ALL of their assets plus

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

Crain's Chicago Business is our premier local business publication. Today they published a review of the 2016 Committee's supposed financial guarantees and found them wanting.

This adds to the growing dis-enchantment with the 2016 Committee, the 2016 bid and Mayor Daley.

[Peeling back the coverage](#)

John Pletz - September 21, 2009

Mayor Richard M. Daley and Patrick Ryan assure Chicago taxpayers that a safety net of insurance would insulate them from the financial risks of hosting the 2016 Olympics.

But the insurance policies Mr. Ryan says he'll secure would cover only about \$1.1 billion of the \$3.8-billion operating budget that the mayor's Olympic point man has drawn up for the games. In many key areas, no insurer stands between taxpayers and the risk of revenue shortfalls or cost overruns.

For example, there's no insurance against the risk that private lenders won't shell out \$1 billion to finance construction of the Olympic Village, as Messrs. Daley and Ryan predict they will. And there's no coverage against shortfalls in corporate sponsorship sales, which they predict will rake in \$1.8 billion,

that of their spouses, including pension plan balances, as security for all Olympic expenses PRIOR to any insurance being used.

Put them fully on the hook before any outside money is needed.

Thomas S, Chicago

Comment on Crain's Chicago web site

two-thirds more than London expects to collect for the 2012 games.

Insurance against overruns on the construction of Olympics venues tops out at 10% over budgeted costs, in a city where major public works projects have come in at two or three times estimates. Another uninsured assumption in the budget is \$246 million in contributions from private donors, a source already tapped for \$72 million to finance the city's bid.

"It's a leap of faith," acknowledges Alderman Joe Moore (49th), a skeptic who ultimately voted to give Mr. Daley authorization to sign the host-city contract with the International Olympic Committee. The contract puts the city on the hook for all costs of staging the 2016 games if the IOC chooses Chicago over Rio de Janeiro, Madrid and Tokyo on Oct. 2.

The primary protection for taxpayers is a projected \$450-million operating profit built into the budget. That's a 12% margin for error. While it's enough to cover a few fiscal misses, shortcomings in multiple areas would overwhelm it. More important is sticking to the budget, something many Olympics cities have failed to do, though the track record is better in the U.S.

"The taxpayers are adequately protected by insurance and the validity of our budget, which the IOC found to be reasonable," says Rick Ludwig, chief financial officer of Chicago 2016, the city's Olympic bid committee.

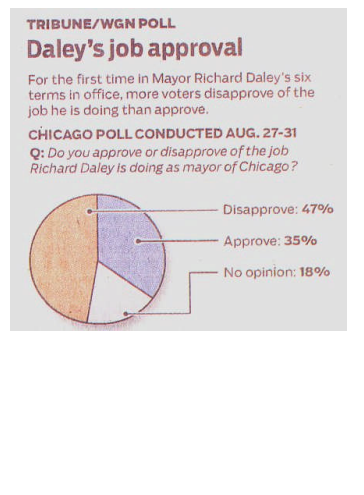
While Mr. Ryan has arranged more than \$1 billion in liability and event-cancellation insurance, those haven't proved to be the big risks for Olympics host cities. Experience shows that the primary hazard is cost overruns on venues for games and housing for athletes.

RISKY VILLAGE

The biggest risk is the Olympic Village. The city hopes to hand it off to private-sector developers, which would transform the former Michael Reese Hospital into athletes' quarters to be sold later as condominiums or rental housing. While Mr. Ryan expects to get surety bonds and other insurance to guarantee on-time completion of the project, he must first sell it to developers and their lenders.

It's hardly a given that lenders will deem the project worthy of financing, as the IOC noted in its evaluation report on the finalist cities. If the private sector won't finance the village, taxpayers must shoulder the \$1-billion cost, or the price of some scaled-down version of the project.

Mr. Ryan has obtained a letter of commitment from German insurer Munich Re A.G. to provide \$250 million in capital-replacement insurance, an untested type of coverage that would provide money for the Olympic Village if an investor or lender promises financing but backs out after the project starts. That happened in Vancouver, host of next year's winter Olympics. "This doesn't protect you if nobody shows up to develop the project," says Laurence Msall, president of the



Civic Federation, which reviewed the city's Olympics plan and found it "reasonable" but pushed to have the insurance included.

COSTLY OPTIMISM

Then there's the cost of building athletic venues. Chicago 2016 budgeted for a 10% cost overrun, and it plans insurance for another 10%, unless builders agree to a fixed-price contract. That's far less than the cost overruns for the 2004 Summer Games in Athens, which doubled the original projections, or the 23% overrun Vancouver now expects to incur on venues.

Vancouver has needed a government cash infusion of \$110 million and has almost drained a \$100-million contingency fund, which is bigger than Chicago's \$82-million reserve.

"The long and sad history of cost overruns on venues is something that cannot be ignored," says Rob Baade, an economics professor at Lake Forest College who has studied Olympics financing.

While recent U.S. games, such as Atlanta's and Salt Lake City's, largely were on target for construction, Chicago's history of cost overruns on big projects casts doubt on the bid committee's projections.

"Millennium Park was three times budget; the Dan Ryan Expressway (reconstruction) was two times budget," says Allen Sanderson, a University of Chicago sports economist.

Chicago is planning fewer permanent facilities than any previous games, keeping its venue-construction budget below \$1 billion. But the timetable, unlike on Millennium Park, isn't flexible. The estimates are based on preliminary designs, meaning costs could be 20% to 60% higher, according to industry benchmarks.

"Given all the risks we're talking about, 10% contingency seems low," says Neil Miltonberger, a Chicago-based vice-president at Kenrich Group, which mediates construction disputes.

According to the Civic Federation, an additional 20% overrun in venue costs would put a \$164-million dent in Chicago's \$450-million budget cushion.

ROSY REVENUE FORECASTS

If Chicago 2016's revenue projections prove optimistic, no insurer will step in to make up the difference. Chicago expects to sell \$1.76 billion in corporate sponsorships - 66% more than London predicts for the 2012 games and more than double Atlanta's take, adjusted for inflation. The IOC calls the target "ambitious but achievable." The U.S. Olympic Committee would cover the first \$70 million of any shortfalls.

Ticket sales, at \$705 million, the second-biggest source of revenue, would have to be the highest since the 2000 Sydney games. The Civic Federation report says the prices for the most-popular events "may be aggressive." A 20% reduction in prices for premium tickets would cut \$68 million from the

projected budget surplus, it says.

BACK TO THE WEALTHY

Chicago also aims to raise \$246 million from private donors, 23% more than was raised for Millennium Park. Most of the donations, \$177 million, would come from selling naming rights to sports venues. But under Olympics rules, sponsors' names can't go up until after the games are over.

The committee hopes to raise \$47 million of the total from selling naming rights to the Washington Park Olympic stadium after it's converted to a 3,500-seat track venue following the games.

"Securing naming-rights donations may be difficult," the Civic Federation report says. If only 50% of the naming-rights donations come through, it would cut \$88.5 million from the \$450-million cushion.

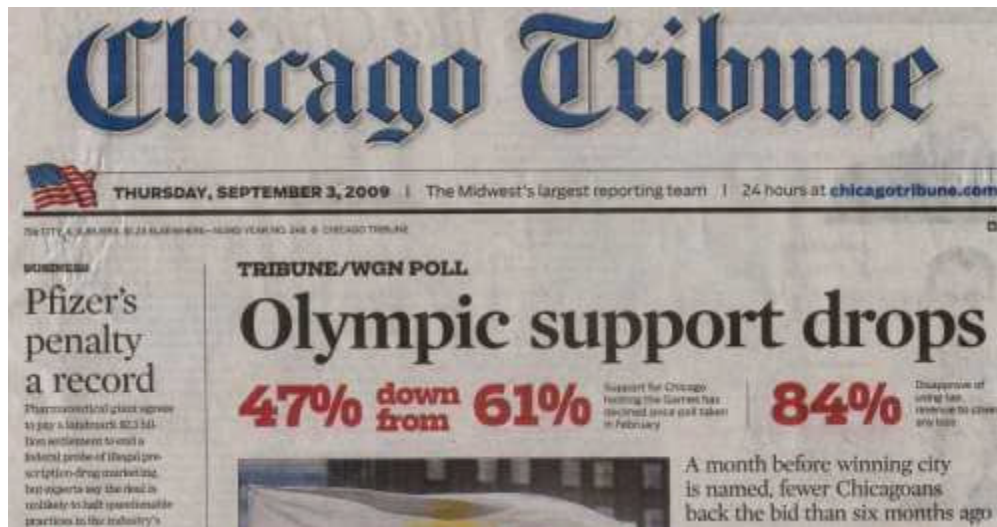
"It's a milestone event, and we think there will be a lot of interest," Mr. Ludwig, the Chicago 2016 CFO, says.

In the final analysis, insurance doesn't cover all the potential budget miscalculations that could cost taxpayers money.

"Athens was three times over budget; London is four times over budget," Mr. Sanderson says. "I don't see that happening here. But are they going to come in at \$4.8 billion? No, I just don't see it."

Email Marketing by





No Games Chicago Update

9 Days To Decision

Daily News

September 22, 2009

The People Speak

I am a huge fan of the Olympics, but there is just too much financial risk for Chicago taxpayers at this time. Let Rio have the games, and the expenses.

Anyone that believes the \$1 billion in insurance premiums will not filter back to friends and allies of city insiders is foolish. That is just the beginning of the huge cost overages that will be incurred. Taxpayers will foot the bill for

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

Today the Chicago Transit Authority lost its two top leaders who are leaving our mass transit system system in a financial mess. "It's a huge loss" said one CTA official.

The CTA, like all other agencies of the city, are experiencing major revenue short falls and service disruptions.

CTA Board loses top two; chairwoman, vice-chair quit

FRAN SPIELMAN AND MARY WISNIEWSKI - September 22, 2009

CTA Board Chairwoman Carole Brown and her co-hort, Vice Chair Susan Leonis, resigned today, creating a leadership vacuum at the chronically-troubled mass transit agency.

The tandem resignations leave former Aviation Commissioner Richard Rodriguez - newly-appointed CTA president with no mass transit experience - to face the financial crisis without the CTA board's most savvy members.

The CTA closed a \$190 million budget gap without raising fares or reducing service, only after shifting capital funds to operations and ordering, yet another painful round of budget cuts. The outlook for next year is worse.

Brown, 45, is a former senior vice-president for now-defunct

many many years.

Baker98765

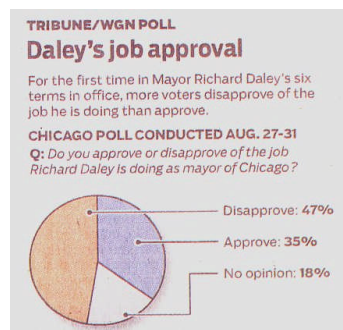
[Comment on Chicago Tribune's web site](#)
article on the 2016 Committee's insurance plan.

Lehman Brothers who used the municipal finance expertise she gained at Harvard and Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management to put together the bond deal that helped the CTA solve its pension crisis.

She was appointed by Mayor Daley in September, 2003, and re-appointed to a term that expires in 2013. Leonis, a close friend of first lady Maggie Daley, was appointed to the CTA board by Gov. Edgar in 1996.

"It's a huge loss," one CTA official said of Brown's departure. "She knows finance. She helped get the legislation through Springfield that shored up our finances and pensions. That's her strength and that's what we're losing."

Sources said the demise of Lehman Brothers played a role in Brown's exit. After a brief stint at Mesirov Financial, Brown landed at Siebert Brandford Shank LLC, a municipal finance firm that demands more of her time.



"Ever since she started, the CTA has had one crisis after another. There's no money. It took years to get a bail-out through Springfield. She spends a lot of time at the CTA," said a source familiar with the explanation Brown gave to Daley Tuesday.

"Lehman Brothers was a huge multi-national firm with tens of thousands of employees. This is a much smaller firm. She just doesn't have that kind of time anymore." Brown could not be reached for comment.

In 2005, while dealing with a \$55 million budget gap, she started her own blog to debunk what she called myths and misinformation about the agency.

"I am not the angel of death," she said at the time. In early 2008, a "doomsday" of higher fares and drastically reduced service was averted by increases in the sales tax and real estate transfer tax.

But both tax sources have suffered from the bad economy, leading to more losses this year.

Brown has always been publicly outspoken in her role as chair. Often, she has more to say to the media after board hearings than the CTA president.

Last month, Brown expressed her frustration with the frequent budget cutting in a complaint against an RTA proposal to take CTA and Metra capital money to help patch a hole in Pace's paratransit budget. She noted that the CTA was able to cover paratransit needs when it ran the van system for the disabled.

Leonis said she was meeting Brown for champagne Tuesday afternoon. "We're really good friends," Leonis said.

Leonis said she's leaving after 15 years because it's time for a change.

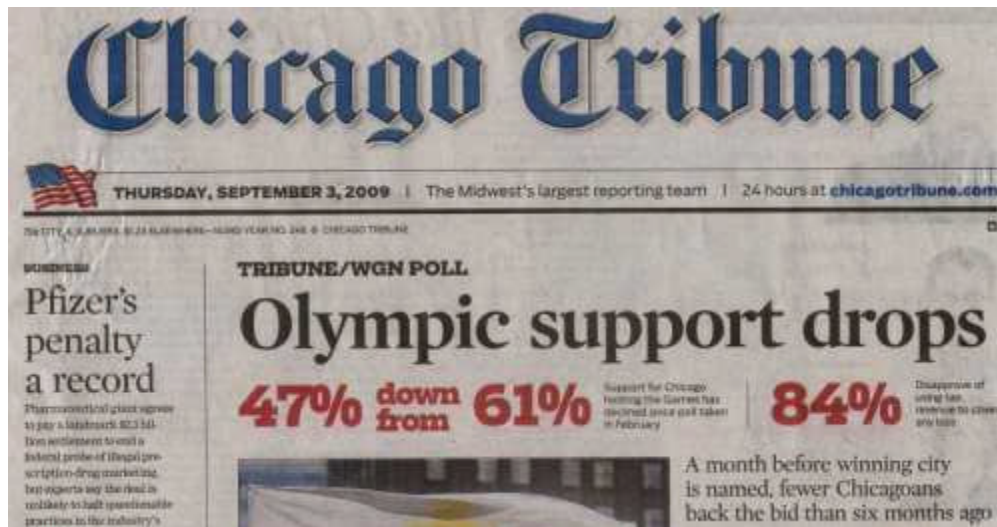
"It's time to do something different," Leonis said. "I'm just tired." Asked if the recent budget problems helped prompt her decision, Leonis laughed, saying there are frequently budget problems at the CTA.

"I can't say these are any different than we've had for a long time," Leonis said.

She said she was glad she had the opportunity to serve.

Email Marketing by





No Games Chicago Update 8 Days To Decision Daily News

September 23, 2009

The People Speak

The Olympics are 6 1/2 years away, do you really think Chicago will be in any better shape to host them? Does the Olympic committee in Copenhagen know to host the games in Chicago would be a disaster!? How about 1 million plus people using our outdated roadways, you think traffic is bad now, forget it. Or our transit system thats falling apart, what a way to showcase or city! Or how about the fact that were the murder capital of the world, i feel sorry for those tourists coming home late from all those events! Daley would love for all them sucker tourists to pump quarters in those meters, nobody else is.

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

Dave Zirin is the sports writer for The Nation Magazine. His column today addressed the wisdom of President Obama going to Copenhagen to try to convince you to give Chicago the 2016 Olympics.

[OLYMPICS IN CHICAGO: 'OBAMA'S FOLLY'?](#)

Dave Zirin - September 22, 2009

"... In fact, the very idea that Chicago could be the setting for the Olympics could have been hatched by Jon Stewart for a four-year supply of comedic fodder. To greater or lesser degrees, the Olympics bring gentrification, graft and police violence wherever they nest. Even without the Olympic Games, Chicago has been ground zero in the past decade for the destruction of public housing (gentrification), political corruption (it ain't just Blagojevich; I can't remember the last Illinois governor who didn't end up behind bars) and police violence (the death row torture scandals). Bringing the Olympics to this town would be like

Copenhagen should realize were the most corrupt city in the nation, [SAYS FBI], the most dangerous and expensive and probably be the most embarrassing Olympics in history. But they did a good job in covering that up for I.O.C members. Lets hope there not the kind of people who dont see through all the deception, greed and downright evilness of our city.

[Comment on line at Chicago Sun-Times](#)

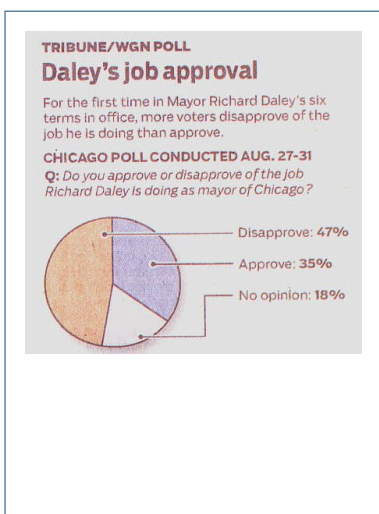
coverage of Mayor Daley's comments that it would take "an earthquake or a tornado" for taxpayers to incur expenses for the 2016 Olympics.

sending a gift basket filled with bottles of Jim Beam to the Betty Ford Clinic: overconsumption followed by disaster.

It's also difficult for Chicago residents to see how this will help their pocketbooks, given that Daley pledged to the International Olympic Committee that any cost overruns would be covered by taxpayers.

This is why a staggering 84 percent of the city opposes bringing the Games to Chicago."

[Read the full column.](#)



Email Marketing by





No Games Chicago Update 7 Days To Decision Daily News

September 24, 2009

The People Speak

The Olympics coming to Chicago, on the surface, is a good idea. It will bring jobs, money, and tourism to the city. On the other hand, it will also bring more corruption, with politicians squandering millions of Olympic dollars on their personal trust funds and vanity projects, and money that was originally allocated for neighborhood improvements will, most likely, be wasted. Also, while the downtown has been vastly improved

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

Today we want to call to your attention this disturbing news item from the Chicago Tribune. It seems that the city has been routinely falsifying airport safety reports to the federal government.

"The problems at O'Hare the FAA cited in its warning notice are considered major violations -- not just housekeeping issues -- because airfields are supposed to be sterile environments free of debris and other hazards that could interfere with flights."

If the city is lying to the federal government about airport safety, one has to wonder - what else have they been dishonest about?

[O'Hare Airport hit for safety violations in FAA report](#)

Tribune exclusive FAA's warning notice lists hazards that endanger takeoffs and landings

Jon Hilkevitch - Tribune reporter - September 24, 2009

over the years, with such projects as Millennium Park and the museum campus, to name a few, a lot of the neighborhoods still suffer with lack of garbage pickup, filth on the streets, and a mass transit system that is substandard, with bus and train service which I would have to call haphazard, as there are times when you still have to wait up to twenty minutes for a bus or train, and you really have no idea when you are going to get your bus or train to come. All in all, the Olympics would only benefit the wealthy among us, and the rest of us would just watch it on TV, and face the consequences of more traffic and crowds, and less service.

Mitchco,
Letter to the Editor,
The Chicago Reader,
September 24, 2009

Federal inspectors found numerous violations at O'Hare International Airport that endanger airplanes at the most critical phases of flight -- takeoffs and landings, officials said Wednesday.

The safety breaches, uncovered by the Federal Aviation Administration during routine inspections last month at O'Hare, range from debris on runways to excessive amounts of tall grass and weeds that create hazards for planes by attracting birds and other wildlife.

A warning notice from the FAA to Chicago said the inspections show that O'Hare is seriously out of compliance with federal aviation law. The notice, called a "letter of correction," also chastised the Chicago Department of Aviation for what the federal agency called a pattern of false statements in its self-inspection program.

"The daily self-inspection records do not reflect actual conditions in the field, violations have not been noted on the self-inspection records that are evident in the field," said the FAA letter, which was obtained by the Tribune.

Most of the violations have already been corrected, and the rest, involving the training of workers driving on the airfield and filing accurate self-inspection reports, will be resolved by the end of November, said Karen Pride, spokeswoman for the Aviation Department.

An object as small as a stone on a runway can pose a danger to flight by being ingested into aircraft jet turbines or piercing a fuel tank and sparking an explosion and fire.

Yet FAA inspectors found rocks, garbage and wood survey stakes used during construction on runways and taxiways at O'Hare.

Collisions between aircraft and birds are a constant threat to safety at airports like O'Hare that are surrounded by woods and waterways.

The FAA has told aviation officials nationwide to practice extreme vigilance in controlling bird populations in the wake of a US Airways jetliner crash-landing in New York's Hudson River in January after flying into geese as the plane climbed up from LaGuardia Airport. All on board survived.

The problems at O'Hare the FAA cited in its warning notice are considered major violations -- not just housekeeping issues -- because airfields are supposed to be sterile environments free of debris and other hazards that could interfere with flights.

The FAA inspectors determined that the wildlife hazard management program at O'Hare "is not being complied with regarding 6" grass height and modification of vegetation on the airfield."

"All paved surfaces should be free of any type of vegetation at



all times," said the report written by Tricia Halpin, a FAA airport certification safety inspector.

During an inspection of O'Hare's newest runway that opened last year, the FAA found rocks and construction debris in the safety areas at the ends of the runway, on the airport's northern sector. It is important that safety areas be maintained as pristinely as runways because they are used in emergencies when planes overrun the runway during landing or must abort a takeoff and need additional pavement to stop safely.

Inspectors also identified "potentially hazardous ruts, humps (and) depressions" on the surface of the new pavement in the safety areas of the runway. The FAA inspectors uncovered similar problems on O'Hare's longest runway that serves the largest commercial planes carrying hundreds of passengers.

Other violations the FAA cited include incomplete training of personnel working on the airfield and record-keeping problems. One violation reported included instances in which airport workers were allowed to drive vehicles on the airfield without receiving all of the required training, officials said.

Recurrent driver training and testing were also being put off for "numerous employees" until the final weeks before the expiration of the drivers' badges allowing them to operate vehicles on the airfield, the FAA said.

In some areas where the FAA spotted lapses in airport operations, including daily field inspections and garbage removal, the inspectors said the problems reflect "insufficient or unqualified personnel to comply with the regulation. Additional training is needed."

Chicago Aviation Commissioner Rosemarie Andolino was out of town Wednesday and unavailable for comment, Pride said.

But Andolino and other city aviation officials are taking the FAA warning very seriously, Pride said. "The highest priority we have at the airport is safety and the cleanliness of the runways and the taxiways," she said.

All airport operations supervisors will be required to view instructional videos on how to properly conduct self inspections, Pride said. In addition, O'Hare recently added extra inspections of all taxiways and runways, she said.

O'Hare air-traffic controller Craig Burzych said he noticed that in the last week the city has temporarily shut down runways for up to 45 minutes at a time during daylight hours to carry out major inspections for debris.

"They said they were missing things at night," said Burzych, who is a runway safety representative at O'Hare for the National Air Traffic Controllers Association.

Andolino took over responsibility for O'Hare and Midway

Airport this year when Mayor Richard Daley promoted her to a dual city aviation post. Andolino, 42, already served as director since 2003 of the O'Hare Modernization Program, a \$15 billion runway expansion project.

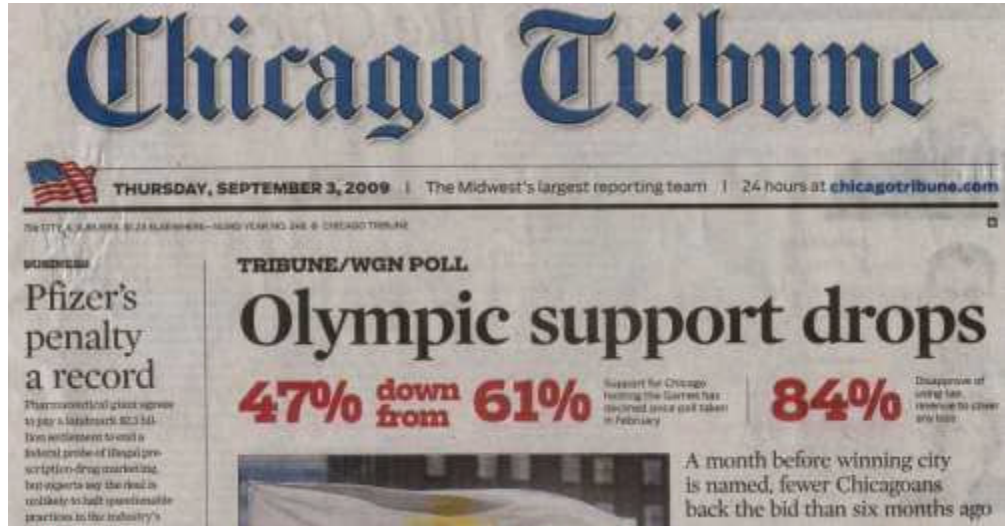
Some airline officials who have worked closely with Andolino on O'Hare expansion questioned the move to have one individual in charge of two very complex and time-consuming programs. Daley said that when he expanded Andolino's responsibilities in February, it made sense to consolidate all aviation activities.

But the findings in the new FAA inspections raise doubts about the ability of Andolino and her department heads to provide sufficient oversight on daily maintenance issues and operations at O'Hare, officials said.

"It's hard to tell whether the airport management in Chicago has not been keeping up with the physical plant. But this is a shot across the bow of the airport to get its act together," said Frank Ayers, executive vice president at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's campus in Prescott, Ariz.

Email Marketing by





No Games Chicago Update 6 Days To Decision Daily News

September 25, 2009

The People Speak

So in a year or two we can look forward to hearing a speech from Daley saying how he is losing faith in the company that won the construction bid or how shocked he was to find out somebody on the Olympic Committee has been arrested for bribery. He will have to come up with a new speech to explain cost overruns and how the insurance doesn't cover them. The Feds could do us a favor and just start overseeing the

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

Today the Chicago Tribune continues to chronicle the conflict of interests of Michael Scott, the chairman of the 2016 Community Outreach Committee.

Mr. Scott led the 2016 Committee's efforts to negotiate a community benefits agreement with dozens of neighborhood groups to get their support for the bid. Apparently the only benefits being distributed from the bid are to insiders, such as himself.

[Here is a link to an earlier story about Mr. Scott's sweetheart land deal involving a site across the street from a proposed Olympic venue.](#)

[Chicago 2016 Olympics: Bid team member has ties to prospective Olympic Village developer](#)

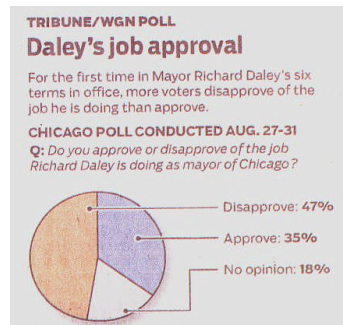
Chicago 2016 member Michael Scott works out of developer Gerald Fogelson's office

*David Heinzmann, Todd Lighty and Kathy Bergen
Tribune reporters - September 25, 2009*

A key member of Mayor Richard Daley's Olympic committee

bid process now.

[Comment online reacting to this Chicago Tribune story.](#)



has a long business relationship with a developer vying to build the billion-dollar Olympic Village, the grandest piece of Chicago's plans for the 2016 Summer Games.

Chicago 2016 committee member Michael Scott also served as a consultant to the developer on a condominium project near the proposed athletes village, a development that would increase in value if the city wins the Olympics.

Scott, who negotiated key components of the \$1.2 billion Olympic Village plan, said his business relationship with the developer, Gerald Fogelson, does not interfere with his role with the bid team. Chicago 2016 officials declined to say whether Scott's relationship with Fogelson was a problem, with Daley's Olympic team poised to spend billions of dollars in coming years.

But Scott's multiple roles as a private developer, mayoral confidant and member of the city's Olympic committee raises anew concerns about insider dealings in a city where Daley allies have long benefited from civic projects the mayor champions. City Hall insiders for years have profited under Daley's administration in myriad deals, from minority contracting to leasing trucks to scooping up prime city-owned land.

Scott, who works out of Fogelson's office, acknowledged he did work on the ongoing Eastgate Village condominium project, but said he provided limited services -- free -- as a favor to the millionaire developer.

"I had no financial interest. I didn't do any real work," Scott said.

Fogelson also described Scott's work as a favor. "He's a longtime friend. He offices here. He's done us favors. We've done him favors," Fogelson said Thursday. "We have other business dealings with him that date back a long time."

Earlier this summer, Scott moved to sever his ties to another development after the Tribune revealed his role in plans to build a housing and retail project near the proposed Olympic cycling venue on the West Side. Fogelson was not involved in that venture. Scott said he was working for free on that project also, advising a group of ministers. Chicago 2016 officials advised him to end his involvement.

Scott said he did not disclose his ties to Fogelson to Chicago 2016 because he sees no conflict of interest. But a Chicago 2016 spokesman said officials knew of Scott's relationship with Fogelson.

In an e-mail, Patrick Sandusky said no contracts have yet been awarded for development and if the city wins the games on Oct. 2, Chicago 2016 would be dissolved and a new organizing committee would "have a public and open bidding process for the village development."

Fogelson is among a dozen developers who have formally notified Chicago 2016 of their interest in the Olympic Village project. The village would boost property values for Eastgate and other developments, Fogelson said. Scott, currently the president of the Chicago Board of Education, has served Daley and three previous mayors in a series of appointed positions. Along the way he has become a real estate developer, involved in various projects.

Public records show that in 2002 Fogelson and Scott formed a partnership -- FS Associates LLC -- to develop city-owned land in the West Side Austin neighborhood into condominiums. Fogelson withdrew from the deal before the project was built, and Scott formed a new partnership with David Doig, former superintendent of the Chicago Park District.

Scott currently has an office in Fogelson's building and his business e-mail has a Fogelson Properties address.

Fogelson acknowledged a longtime business relationship with Scott but declined to discuss their dealings.

"I don't feel that it's anybody's business to know all the various real estate and other activities we're engaged in," Fogelson said. "I don't think there's anything improper about that. We try to stay under the radar."

Scott, too, declined to discuss his relationship with Fogelson beyond their sharing of office space.

Scott, who is black, said he advised Fogelson on building the development in a predominantly African-American neighborhood just south of the McCormick Place convention center, including arranging for radio personality Herb Kent to act as master of ceremonies for a promotional event.

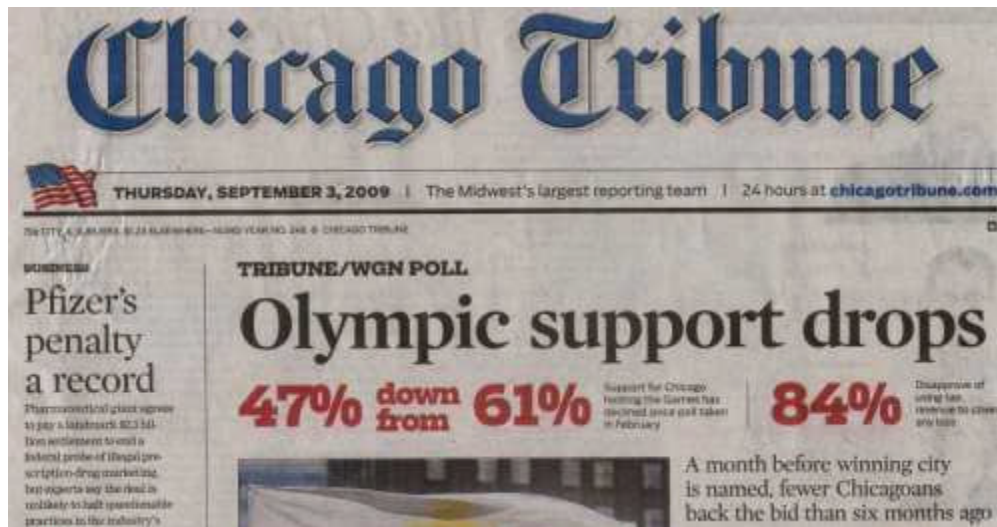
"I helped them get an emcee and gave them ideas for marketing to the African-American community," Scott said. "I am not the developer."

Others recall Scott's role as more active. "I know Mike Scott. I know he was part of it. He was involved," said Madeline Haithcock, the former alderman for the area.

A Web site marketing Eastgate Village identified Scott as a development partner in a July 2008 account about a street-naming ceremony.

Ald. Robert Fioretti, 2nd, said he didn't learn of Scott's involvement in Eastgate until he saw him at the street-naming ceremony in late 2007. But Fioretti said he first became aware of their business relationship earlier that year when he visited Fogelson's office soon after becoming alderman. Fioretti recalled looking over plans in the office when Scott walked into the room.

"I was like, 'Wow, OK. This explains a lot about who's who and what's what in this city,' " Fioretti said.



No Games Chicago Update 5 Days To Decision Daily News

September 26, 2009

The People Speak

Olympics or Human Life?

Corey McClaurin and Corey Harris have been gunned down, but the Olympics still gets the top story. Human life is just a sidebar and 2016 is more important than the senior classes of Simeon Career Academy and Dyett High School. No Games Chicago may be upset that taxpayers may be on the hook for huge costs, but I'm more concerned with Chicagoans staying

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

We expect you've been hearing about how diverse our city is and what a boon the games would be for the various neighborhoods who have suffered from lack of investment and few opportunities.

Several prominent African-American journalists are troubled by the zeal and immense concentration of public and private resources marshaled on behalf of the bid. [Mary Mitchell](#), a member of the Editorial Board at the Chicago Sun-Times, writes "To those of us who live in the real world, the push for the Olympics has been a bit hard to swallow. Just about every day, another child gets wounded or is murdered in our city."

[City's troubles take back seat to Games bid](#)

If only our have-nots drew same level of attention . . .

Mary Mitchell - Sun-Times Columnist- September 24, 2009

Only eight days left, and Mayor Daley will know whether or not he will get his way.

Forget Rio.

alive.

The mayor wants this more than your first kiss from your high school crush. He salivates for the 5 rings that would blanket the city. He lusts after Olympic villages and Stadiums - while not giving a hoot about a safe city. Is it because the ones getting shot aren't well-to-do? Wrong side of town? Does Daley think that this is natural selection? I'm for the Olympics - in a safe city with jobs, and thriving south and west sides. But why should we put all of the energy into the Olympics? Where are the additional officers on the streets? Where are the high quality teachers throughout CPS? When was the last time Mayor Daley focused on the worse parts of the city?

City Hall has placed more importance on games than lives. Jane Byrne spent a day in Cabrini Green. I can't roll with an Olympics if Daley won't spend a day in the "Wild Hunnids."

My money is on Daley.

When Daley decides to do something, it gets done: Millennium Park, Meigs Field, O'Hare expansion, the takeover of the Chicago Public Schools, and the dismantling of the CHA.

Daley's quest for the 2016 Olympics has been a demonstration of his great ability.

At a time when the lines stretch around the block at places that take care of the out-of-work and indigent, aldermen voted 49-0 to give Daley a blank check putting taxpayers on the hook for any uninsured losses.

At a time when a lot of Chicagoans are facing homelessness because of foreclosures, Daley is assuring taxpayers that only an "earthquake or a tornado" would put them on the hook for any losses.

And at a time when the cries of frustrated community activists are falling on deaf ears at the White House, Daley and his Olympic team have the star-power of first lady Michelle Obama, White House senior adviser Valerie Jarrett and Oprah Winfrey.

Indeed, the "We Back the Bid" campaign is a reminder of why we need muckety-mucks.

Only the well-heeled business owners who live in a different Chicago could pull something like this off.

They are the only folks who still can afford to hop a flight and pay thousands of dollars for Chicago 2016 land packages just so they can witness the yea or nay. As they say, money attracts money.

Bid backers are going to Copenhagen waving that big ol' blank check and parading some of the city's most prominent citizens before an international committee of snobs with the hope of scoring a world-class party. I'm not hating. I am just saying.

Olympic bid vs. dying kids

To those of us who live in the real world, the push for the Olympics has been a bit hard to swallow.

Just about every day, another child gets wounded or is murdered in our city.

Last Saturday, it was Corey McClaurin, a 17-year-old senior who was shot as he sat in his car parked around the corner from his home.

Usually, you hear about something like this happening well after the witching hour.

We're just a few days from a decision. I'm praying fo Chicago, but I want high school students to live.

[Television commentator Garrard McClendon Commentary for September 22, 2009](#)

But it was 7 p.m. -- still daylight -- when McClaurin was killed. The shooter pulled up in a "dark blue or black minivan," fired a round of shots, and hopped back in the van.

Family and friends of the victim can think of no motive for the shooting.

"It's not gang-related. It's not drug-related. This was a great kid," a neighbor said.

During the 2008-2009 school year, 34 Chicago Public Schools students were killed, and 290 were shot. Another 108 students were wounded over the summer. So far this school year, seven students have been shot, and two have been fatally wounded.

Corey Harris, a 17-year-old junior at Dyett High School, was killed by a Chicago Police officer who claimed the teen aimed a gun at the officer.

Help for youth better late than never

I'm cynical enough to think that an anti-violence plan recently launched by schools chief Ron Huberman was done, in part, to mute criticism the mayor has faced for not putting the same effort into saving the city's children as he has put into securing the Olympics.

Even so, I'm still grateful.

Huberman has identified 38 schools that have the most youth who could be exposed to gang violence. About 200 students are targeted for intervention that includes intensive counseling and a job.

The Youth Advocacy Program will cost about \$5 million. "We are trying to find out why this violence is happening," said Monique Bond, a spokeswoman for the Chicago Public Schools.

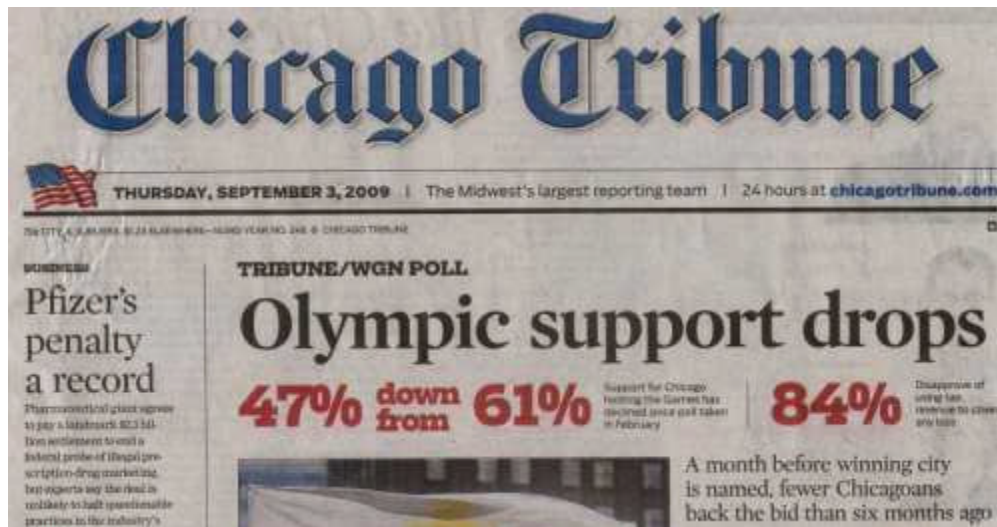
"We can't prevent every student from becoming a victim, but we can certainly try to start somewhere. We can't ignore it" she said.

There is no question that the root of the violence that takes place routinely in Chicago's neighborhoods is complex. But we know a great deal of the violence is gang- and drug-related or associated with the breakdown of family structures.

I wish the Olympics 2016 Committee a victory in Copenhagen.

I only wish the mayor and his team had the same level of commitment to stop the city's bloodshed as they do for bringing home the Games.





No Games Chicago Update 4 Days To Decision Daily News

September 27, 2009

THE PEOPLE SPEAK

As a native Chicagoan, I strongly oppose the 2016 Summer Olympic games. As a citizen I oppose them because of Mayor Daley's record of spending taxpayer money he doesn't have. He is misleading the citizens, saying no taxpayer money will be spent.

BULLs!!!** Due to his past record he can't be trusted. To the IOC, PLEASE don't pick Chicago for 2016 games. We can't afford them and don't want them.

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

We expect you've been hearing about how diverse our city is and what a boon the games would be for the various neighborhoods who have suffered from lack of investment and few opportunities.

Several prominent African-American journalists are troubled by the zeal and immense concentration of public and private resources marshaled on behalf of the bid. Today, Dawn Turner Trice of the Chicago Tribune writes that the children of Chicago deserve at least as much attention as the 2016 bid.

[Chicago 2016 Olympics: Chicago's children deserve Olympian effort, too](#)

On election night last November, Chicago was stage-set as the world watched. Grant Park teemed with people of different races who stood side by side, hugging, cheering and crying. One of the city's favorite sons, a black man, had achieved the seemingly impossible feat of winning the White House.

That night showed a Chicago in her ideal. But the city -- whose mayor is hoping once again to cast it in the best light for the 2016 Olympics -- has a dark side. Despite its dazzling profile and the self-congratulation attendant to an Olympic bid, Chicago can never truly be a world-class city until it figures out how to save its children.

**Greg Pantazi, Chicago
Signer of No Games
Chicago online petition**

Consider this: The Black Star Project, an advocacy group that mentors and tutors black and Latino students, has counted 53 children and teens under 18 who have been killed in Chicago from Sept. 2, 2008, to Sept. 2, 2009.

"Since the Iraq war started in 2003, we've lost 10 soldiers who resided in this city, and that's awful," said Phillip Jackson, executive director of Black Star. "But during that same time, we've lost about 300 of our children. So you tell me: Is this not a war?"

It is indeed. And the proof from some of the city's most embattled communities breaks your heart. You remember 9-year-old Chastity Turner, who was fatally shot in the neck in June as she gave her dogs a bath outside her father's home in the Englewood neighborhood.

A few months before her, Gregory Robinson, 14, was gunned down in the back seat of a car in the 1100 block of West 110th Place. He died slumped over two younger relatives, whom family members believe he was trying to protect.

Despite the city's recent launch of an anti-violence campaign designed to offer intensive counseling and a job to the Chicago Public Schools students most in danger of becoming victims, two teenagers in the city's schools already have been killed in gun violence this school year.

Corey McClaurin, 17, was a senior at Simeon Career Academy High School. Corey Harris, 17, was a basketball player at Dyett High School. Seven other students have been shot this month.

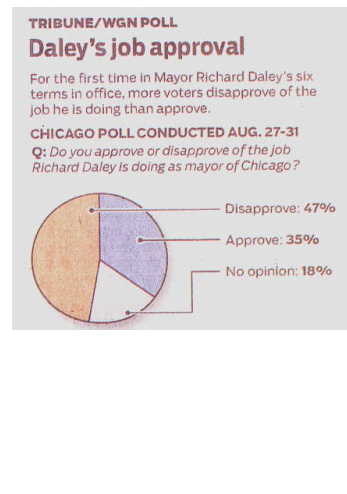
Chicago 2016's stewardship report touts the benefits to children of hosting the games. The report says: "The surplus produced by the 1984 Los Angeles Games provided the funding for the LA84 Foundation, which has committed more than \$185 million to youth sport programs in Southern California. Similar opportunity will be provided to Chicago youth as a result of the 2016 Games."

That sounds good, but a recent report from a RAND Corp. study reminds us that too many of Los Angeles' youth continue to struggle.

The report found that those growing up in South Central's gang-infested communities amid violence have higher rates of post-traumatic stress disorder than children growing up in Baghdad.

"All of these kids are casualties," said Jackson. "Who can study in a school in LA or Chicago when they're worried about whether they're going to be alive tomorrow?"

The International Olympics Committee on Friday will pick a host city in the four-way race among Chicago, Madrid, Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo.



Regardless of which city is chosen, it's no small endeavor that Mayor Richard Daley was able to marshal so many resources to get Chicago this close.

He found a chief executive who persuaded a lot of people to volunteer their time and donate millions to an effort in which they believed.

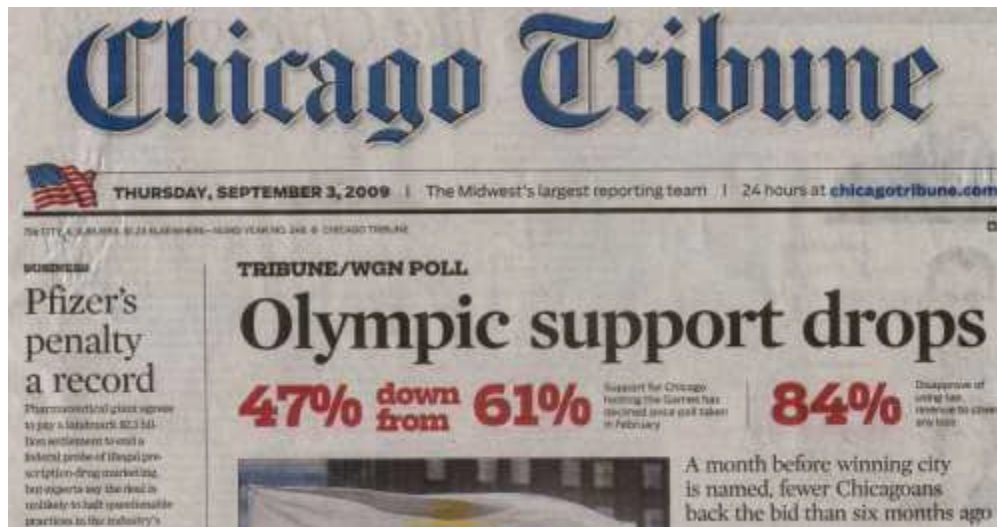
Indeed, there's no one event or thing that will immediately solve the complex stew of problems affecting youth who are at risk. Finding a solution will take a tremendous team approach that requires families and communities to pull their weight.

But Chicago 2016 provides a template for mobilizing the dollars and the will to make something really big happen.

We know that if Chicago wins the bid, the city's beautiful skyline will glow in the spotlight. But maybe getting something so grand would help us work to realize a city whose true beauty lies within.

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No Games Chicago Update 3 Days To Decision Daily News

September 28, 2009

THE PEOPLE SPEAK

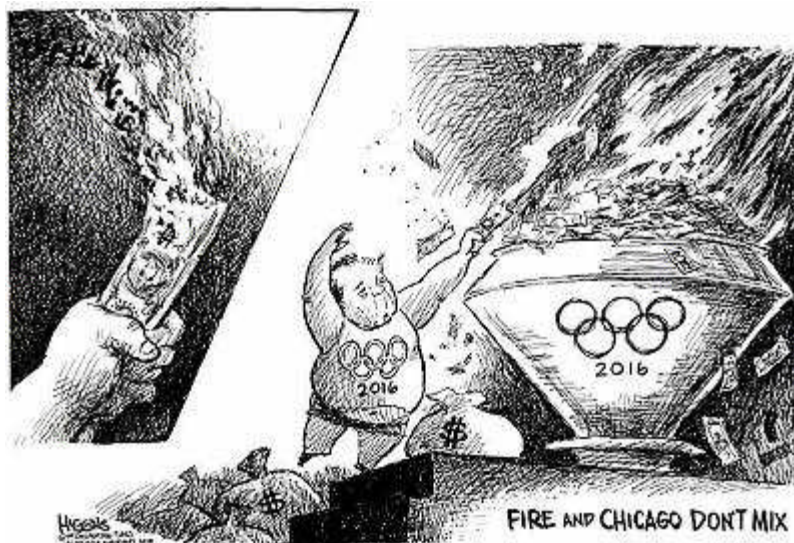
Olympics would cost Chicagoans big-time

The decision of the International Olympic Committee is close at hand. Every Chicagoan should cross fingers, say prayers and hope that the International Olympic Committee picks . . . any other city.

First and foremost, all those businesslike economic projections flowing out of City Hall and the Chicago boosters are fabrications, theories. Without the benefit of high-priced accounting firms, I will make a prediction. Should we get the Olympics, the costs will be higher than projected and the income lower. The promised ancillary benefits

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

Here are two images that sum up what 84% of the people of Chicago associate with the Olympics and the 2016 bid.



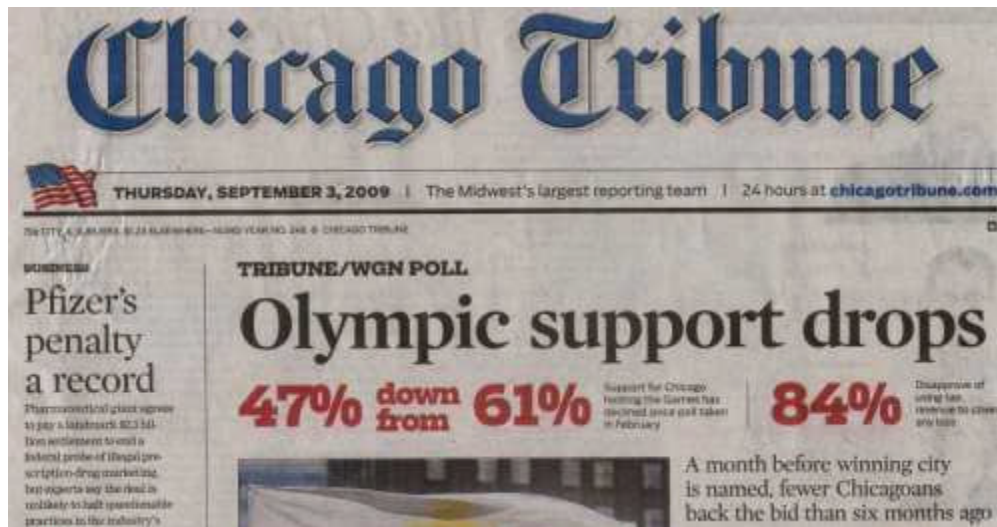
will never materialize. The impact on the working-class taxpayer will be significant.

If you don't believe me, you should know that virtually every independent accounting authority says the city's projections are nothing but hype. Even the promised insurance policy that is supposed to protect the taxpayers is full of holes -- billions of dollars in costs will come out of Chicago workers' paychecks. Our hard-earned money will be redistributed to the rich and powerful friends of City Hall.

In the twisted irony of Chicago politics, those who will scoop up millions of dollars in windfall profits will have the best accommodations, the best seats, the best parties. The working-stiff footing the bill will watch the hometown Olympics on television, find it impossible to get into a restaurant, stand in long lines for entertainment venues and have to make their way to work in super congestion. I say: Go! Go! Rio!

Larry Horist, President,
Public Policy Caucuses,
Chicago
[Chicago Sun-Times letter to the editor](#), September 26, 2009





No Games Chicago Update 2 Days To Decision Daily News

September 29 2009

TRIBUNE/WGN POLL
Daley's job approval

For the first time in Mayor Richard Daley's six terms in office, more voters disapprove of the job he is doing than approve.

CHICAGO POLL CONDUCTED AUG. 27-31
Q: Do you approve or disapprove of the job Richard Daley is doing as mayor of Chicago?

Disapprove	47%
Approve	35%
No opinion	18%

Dear Member of the International Olympic Committee:

**NO GAMES
 IOC NEWSLETTER
 ONLINE ARCHIVE**

[Click here to view any of the email newsletters No Games Chicago has sent you.](#)



The same team of No Games Chicago volunteer delegates [that came to Lausanne in June](#) is now in Copenhagen.

Many people from Chicago will be meeting with you. Our President will be meeting with you. Unfortunately, NONE of them speaks for the vast majority of the citizens of Chicago who feel as we do that the 2016 Olympics is the wrong project for the wrong city at the wrong time.

Will you allow us to come before you at a time of your choosing BEFORE you vote on Friday? Many of you have been following our daily email updates, which we have been sending you since late July. We hope you have found them informative and useful in your deliberations.

Our local phone number is 011-45-416-89740.

We look forward to giving you information you will want to have before you cast your vote on Friday.

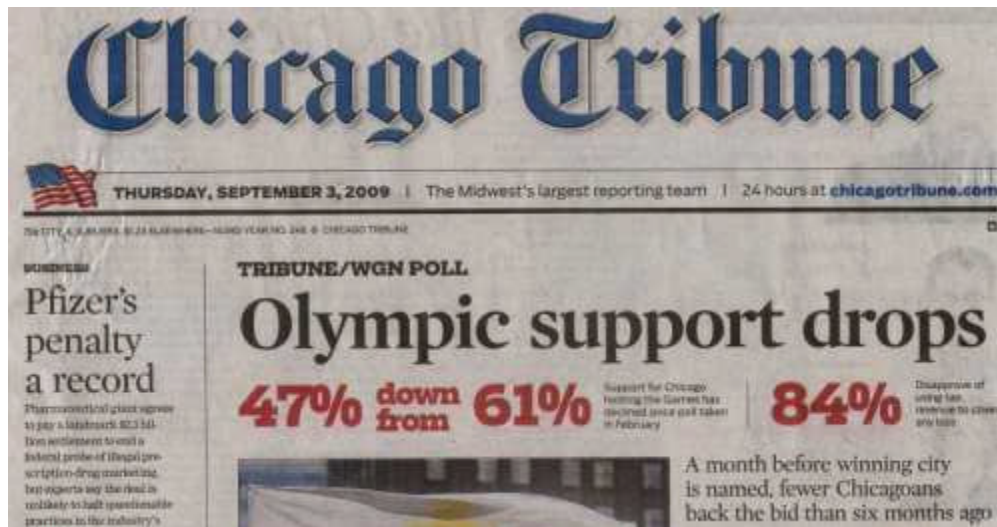
Thank you, as always, for your kind attention to our concerns.

Martin Macias, Jr.
Thomas Tresser
Rhoda Whitehorse
[No Games Chicago](#)
Copenhagen Delegation
nogameschicago@gmail.com

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No Games Chicago Update Daily News

September 30 2009

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[No Games Chicago](#)
 Copehagen Delegation
 nogameschicago@gmail.com.

We have told you that the government of Chicago is plagued with corruption and incompetence. We have told you that this results in terrible management, cost overruns and risk. In this case, there is also the real danger of security lapses resulting from unqualified people making key decisions based on personal gain and not on the public's welfare.

Here is a report from yesterday revealing that a top official tasked with security and readiness has been accused of fraudulent practices. These are the kind of people that will building and managing the Olympics if they come to Chicago.

[Report: Fire city public safety exec](#)

- FRAN SPIELMAN Chicago Sun-Times -
September 29, 2009

The inspector general's office is recommending the firing of the No. 2 man at Chicago's Office of Emergency Management and Communications for alleged contract irregularities that cost taxpayers \$2.25 million.

Jim Argiropoulos, the \$149,832-a-year first deputy who once served as OEMC's acting director, is accused of engineering a scheme that culminated in the falsification of documents to expedite the purchase of a new 911 dispatch console system from Schaumburg-based Motorola.

The inspector general's office is recommending the firing of Jim Agripoulos for alleged contract irregularities that cost taxpayers \$2.25 million.

Chicago taxpayers have yet to receive anything for their money.

The alleged irregularities took place in 2004 and 2005 while Chicago Public Schools CEO Ron Huberman was running OEMC.

Without a contract to justify the console purchase -- and apparently unwilling to wade through the normal bidding process -- Argiropoulos allegedly ordered underlings to find a way to get it done. As a result, a phony voucher was issued for 18,000

handheld radios under an existing Motorola contract.

No sooner had the company started ordering software than Argiropoulos allegedly demanded an upgrade, with the \$2.25 million payment applied to the new system.

When Motorola balked at the demand, Argiropoulos allegedly played hardball: If Motorola didn't give him what he wanted, its future city contracts would be in jeopardy, according to sources familiar with the inspector general's report.

Argiropoulos could not be reached for comment. Motorola spokesman Steve Gorecki referred questions to the city. The company was not accused of wrongdoing.

The Motorola investigation was first disclosed by the Chicago Sun-Times in May 2008.

The following day, the newspaper reported that Argiropoulos had stripped a \$104,804-a-year underling of his responsibilities after the subordinate provided key information to investigators probing the \$2.25 million in payments to Motorola beyond the scope of the company's contracts.

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PRESS RELEASE

September 30, 2009

For Immediate Release

Contact:

For more information:

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tom@tresser.com

In Chicago: Francesca Rodriguez, 773-xxx-xxxx,
xxx@gmail.com

Bob Quellos, 773-xxx-xxxx, xxx@gmail.com

<http://www.nogameschicago.com>

No Games Chicago Sends Delegation to Copenhagen

Copenhagen - No Games Chicago has sent three volunteers to Copenhagen, Denmark in order to persuade the members of the International Olympic Committee to pick another city for the 2016 Olympics.

The members of the delegation are Martin Macias, Jr., Thomas Tresser and Rhoda Whitehorse. The same [team went to Lausanne Switzerland on June 15](#) to bring the message of "no games for Chicago" to the IOC, They delivered 100 copies of the "[Book of Evidence](#)" - 160 pages of reprints from local papers over the past four years documenting the poor finances and management of the city and showing that the people here do not support the bid.

Tom Tresser is an educator and activist and former actor and producer. He is a co-founder of [Protect Our Parks](#), which fights the privatization of public space and an member of the Executive Committee of the 43rd Ward Independent Democratic Ward organization in Chicago. He can be reached in Copenhagen at tom@tresser.com or (45) 416-89740.

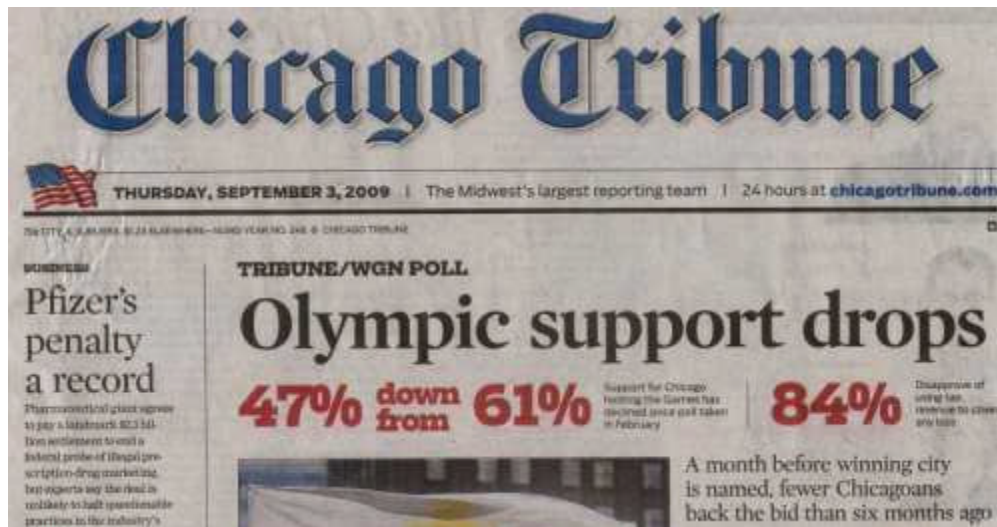
Rhoda Whitehorse has lived in Chicago for 40 years and is a former public school teacher. She is a mother and grandmother and minister who cares deeply about the world they will inherit. She can be reached in Copenhagen at xxx@gmail.com or 312-xxx-xxxx.

Martin Macias Jr. is a youth organizer for the Chicago Environmental Justice Coalition. He is also a media reform activist with the community radio station [Radio Arte](#). He can be reached at xxx@gmail.com or (45) 539-26003.

"Our goal is, and always has been, to communicate information to the members of the International Olympic Committee that they need to make a wise decision on awarding the 2016 games. We believe that hosting the Olympics is the wrong project for the wrong city at the wrong time," said delegate member Tom Tresser, "Eight-four percent of the people of Chicago agree with us. We're here to speak up for them."

###

[No Games Chicago](#) is an all-volunteer group of social justice activists, concerned citizens and grassroots organizations opposed to bringing the 2016 Olympics to Chicago. The group was launched on January 31, 2009 with a public forum at the University of Illinois Chicago.



No Games Chicago Update Daily News

October 1, 2009

TRIBUNE/WGN POLL
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[No Games Chicago](#)
 Copenhagen Delegation
nogameschicago@gmail.com.

With one day left before you decide who will host the 2016 Olympics, we'd like to share with you an excellent summing up of the reasons why picking Chicago would be a grave error.

Chicago political reporter [Ben Joravsky wrote an open letter to you in April](#) citing the main reasons why awarding the games to Chicago would be a terrible mistake. Today he repeats and adds to these arguments. We hope you will take a few moments to carefully consider his point of view.

[Dear International Olympic Committee: One last argument for why Chicago doesn't need, want, or deserve the games.](#)

Ben Joravsky -The Chicago Reader

Dear Members of the International Olympic Committee:
It's been almost six months since I last wrote to encourage you not to award Chicago the 2016 games.

Back then, as you recall, I was welcoming some of you to town for your official visit. Now, of course, you're in Copenhagen, preparing to announce on October 2 which city they'll be held in-Chicago, Madrid, Tokyo, or Rio.

I don't want Chicago to "win" for the reasons I mentioned last time: we can't afford the games, and they'll tear up our parks. But let's talk about your needs. I urge you, for your own sake: spare yourself the cost overruns, backroom deals, political wrangling, embarrassing scandals, and ugly headlines a Chicago Olympics would almost certainly bring you.

Let me explain.

For starters, no one around here really wants them.

OK, that's not completely true. Obviously, Mayor Daley wants them, and his opinion counts far more than most.

But on this issue, at least, he doesn't represent the city well. According to the [most recent poll](#), conducted in late August for the Chicago Tribune, 45 percent of Chicagoans are explicitly against bringing the games here, and 84 percent are effectively against them because they're opposed to using any taxpayer money to fund them. As you probably know, having scrutinized the books, taxpayers will almost certainly have to cover at least some of the costs. Mayor Daley says it will cost \$3.3 billion to stage the games and he'll raise \$3.8 billion from private donors, leaving a \$500 million pot from which to build parks and field houses in low-income neighborhoods.

But what you might not know is that the city hasn't completed a major construction project on time or on budget in recent memory. Pick a project, any project: the reconstruction of Soldier Field, the creation of Millennium Park, the

redevelopment of the prime downtown land at Block 37, the expansion of O'Hare airport-they were all finished way over budget if they were finished at all. In Chicago, people know that the question isn't whether city projects will go over budget, but by how much.

Faith in the predictions that the games would be an economic boon for Chicago is exactly that: faith. Science doesn't support them. [As my colleague Deanna Isaacs wrote a couple of weeks ago](#), studies have found that the games have a marginal impact on the local economy-one study, produced by the European Tour Operators Association, even concluded that "there appears to be little evidence of any benefit to tourism of hosting an Olympic Games, and considerable evidence of damage." Just last week [the Anderson Economic Group, an independent research and consulting firm, released a report](#) designed to let area businesses know more about the probable impact of hosting the 2016 Olympics. They concluded that the games could yield \$4.4 billion in economic benefits-a not insubstantial sum, but less than a quarter of the \$22 billion the mayor's office and the Chicago 2016 bid committee have been trumpeting.

You may recall that the mayor initially vowed that the games wouldn't cost Chicagoans one dime in public money. Yet we've already committed half a billion bucks (and that doesn't include \$250 million put up by the state, which is also strapped for cash). It's not the same deal with Tokyo, Madrid, and Rio, whose national governments have promised to pay their Olympic bills. The residents of Chicago are being asked to pretty much shoulder this sucker on their own.

Why should you care about any of this? Because we're broke, and with all our other pressing needs there's bound to be political blowback if we spend money on a three-week-long international party.

I know, I told you about our financial troubles last time. But guess what: they've gotten worse. Back then the city was estimating it was about \$200 million in the red. In the ensuing months, Mayor Daley laid off workers, forced employees to take unpaid furloughs, and even closed City Hall for a day in August. Yet the deficit still grew-it's now expected to be more than \$500 million for the coming year. In addition, the Chicago Public Schools is facing its own deficit of \$475 million as school officials talk about raising property taxes and cutting staff and programs.

The mayor's in a bit of a bind. He can close the budget gap with another tax hike and another round of service cuts, or he can do what he's done the past few years: make unrealistically rosy projections of how much revenue the city expects to collect in the coming months. Of course, if he chooses plan B-the politically safe option-the city will make plans to spend more than it can really afford and we'll end up with an even a greater budget deficit just a few months from now.

In either case, the decision won't come until after you make

your October 2 announcement.

Think of it this way: If you were to give Chicago the Olympics, the city would have to spend money to build athletic facilities, housing, and other infrastructure for the games even as Mayor Daley raises taxes, lays off teachers, and cuts the services that supposedly make this city "work."

What would be the consequences for your games? That's the multi-billion-dollar question you have to ponder. On the one hand, Chicagoans have been very tolerant of Mayor Daley, despite years of scandal and corruption. He's been reelected five times since 1989 with no less than 60 percent of the vote.

On the other hand, these are unusually volatile times. Recent public opinion polls in the Trib found that the percentage of Chicagoans who view Daley favorably has slipped to 35, an all-time low. The public is still grumbling about the parking meter debacle, in which City Hall, with virtually no oversight or expert analysis, leased the city's meter system to a consortium of investors for 75 years, apparently for far less than it was worth. The process was engineered by [a battery of well-connected law firms and investment bankers who've donated thousands of dollars to the mayor's political-and-Olympic-coffers](#). Daley swore that the new operators would run the meters far more efficiently than the city had, but they've had all kinds of problems in the months since they took over. Even as the rates quadrupled, meters broke down, motorists got tickets, angry consumers sabotaged the meters, and aldermen and the state attorney general launched investigations.

If you want to know why the public is having a hard time buying anything the mayor's selling these days-and why you too should be wary of his promises-you ought to read the Reader's coverage of how the meter deal went down.

Give us the games and you run the risk of replacing the parking meter operators as everybody's favorite whipping boys-the most convenient scapegoat for all the service cuts and tax hikes people will be facing.

And don't forget: this isn't China, where the central government controls the press. There are still reporters around town who delight in exposing the murky details of inside deals, cost overruns, project delays, investigations, and-when they happen, and they do happen-federal indictments and convictions. Already the city's Olympic bid has begun to give off the scent of scandal. Just last week the Trib broke the news that Michael Scott-a powerful Daley ally and member of the Chicago 2016 bid committee-has worked as a consultant for one of the firms hoping to develop Chicago's \$1.2 billion Olympic Village.

[Earlier stories](#) reported that Scott, who's also head of the Chicago school board, was part of a group of west-siders hatching plans to develop city-owned land near Douglas Park, [the planned site of the planned Olympic velodrome](#). If the Olympics come to Chicago, these properties would soar in

value. Scott, though, said he wasn't in it for himself-he was just providing pro bono advice to a group of ministers working on the project.

Just in case Mayor Daley didn't include any of these articles in your press packet, let me quote a choice sample of the Trib's latest: "Scott's multiple roles as a private developer, mayoral confidant and member of the city's Olympic committee raises anew concerns about insider dealings in a city where Daley allies have long benefited from civic projects the mayor champions. City Hall insiders for years have profited under Daley's administration in myriad deals, from minority contracting to leasing trucks to scooping up prime city-owned land."

Ouch. And you haven't even awarded us the games yet.

Of course, you will undoubtedly hear a different story from the dignitaries Mayor Daley brings to Copenhagen. Everyone from Oprah to President Obama will be telling you it's all hunky-dory in Chicago. Don't believe them. I doubt they believe it themselves.

I guess our corporate and civic bigwigs have decided it's in their best interest to go along to get along. This is very much a one-man town-Mayor Daley calls the shots. Most players here know that if they want anything they have to go through him. [As several told me on the condition that I not use their names](#) (they're not eager to face the mayor's wrath for talking), they see their Olympic support as either payback for things they got in the past or a down payment on things they hope to get in the future. Many of the most generous contributors to the Olympic cause are either city contractors or leaders of institutions who count on city funding to operate.

As for President Obama, he doesn't live here anymore, so he won't be around to take the hit when the locals get fed up. Plus, the largely African-American south- and west-siders who are likely to pay the most for the games-through the loss of parks or rising property taxes-are likely to remain loyal to him regardless. I guess he figures he's got nothing to lose.

You've probably heard that our City Council voted unanimously to back Chicago's Olympics bid. That's not as it seems either. I've talked to quite a few of them over the last few weeks, and they've told me they felt they had no choice. Aldermen Robert Fioretti, Scott Waguespack, and Joe Moore, for starters, have all told me the mayor made it clear he would never forgive or forget anyone who came out against the games. He wanted an unblemished vote, and he got it.

Still, many of the aldermen realize that the Olympics will be a hot political issue in this town for years to come-particularly if they have to continue to hike taxes and cut services at the same time we're all reading articles about Olympic overruns and inside deals.

"There's no point in voting no-it only pisses off the mayor and I

don't need that," I was told by one alderman who didn't want his name used in print.

Besides, he added, "We're not getting the games-Rio's getting them. You heard it here first."

And if you're wrong? I asked him.

"We're screwed."

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PRESS RELEASE
October 2, 2009

For Immediate Release

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Chicago Residents File Complaint with U.S. Department of Justice to Challenge Discriminatory Practices of the Chicago 2016 Olympic Committee

Chicago, IL - October 1, 2009

The Chicago Park District, The Chicago 2016 Olympic Committee, and Chicago Mayor Daley have demonstrated a pattern of racial discrimination in the development and design of their Olympic Bid," said Valencia Rias, who is a South Side community activist.

As a result, Rias and eight other Chicagoans filed a civil rights Racial Discrimination complaint today with the U.S. Department of Justice, charging that:

Chicago's strategy for carrying out the Olympics (as stated in Chicago's Olympic bid) relies heavily on the "donation" of major Chicago parks for the clear majority of Olympic ceremonies and competitions, even though the Chicago version of the Games has been advertised as "privately funded").

- Most important, three major public parks with the heaviest burden for the Games (especially Washington Park, but also including Douglas Park and Jackson Park) serve communities that are nearly 100% African-American and among the poorest in the city. These communities will be substantially deprived of the use of a significant poart of their parks for periods of two years or more, while major venues (such as the temporary 80,000-seat Olympic Stadium at Jackson Park) are constructed and then torn down after the Olympics.
- These three parks are almost the only resource that many young people and adults have available in their communities for recreation (especially organized and informal sports that keep young people out of trouble, but also including jogging, and picnicking).
- For example, Washington Park is a 98% African American 65% low-income community on Chicago's South Side. Washington Park will become the site not only of an 80,000-seat stadium, but also five swimming pools.
- After being denied access to Washington Park for two years, residents will watch Olympic spectators arrive on shuttle buses, enter the stadium and pool sites through fences surrounding them, and then return to their hotels-once again by shuttle bus.

- Washington Park has virtually no full-service stores. They have no major restaurants or other businesses that are to attract people who come to watch the Olympics. The Chicago Olympic bid itself does not include concrete and substantial funds to help Washington Park and other venues with their the major economic development commitment needed to turn them around.
- The Rio bid makes the long-term development of the communities where the Olympics will be held central to their bid. With no similar funds as part of Chicago's bid several Chicago foundations are establishing a fund to aid the communities where the Games would be held in Chicago.
- The three African American communities in which these parks are located had no say in whether or how their parks would be used for Olympic events. The decision to "donate" their use to the Chicago Olympic Committee was made by the Chicago Park Board, which is appointed and totally controlled by Chicago's Mayor Richard Daley. (The Mayor's former Chief of Staff, Gery Chico) is now the Park Board's President.)
- Of the more than 50 public parks larger than 100 acres in Chicago, only one park in a predominantly white community is being required by the Park District and the Mayor to bear a somewhat similar burden, by serving as the site for tennis, with some new courts to be built.

"I think the Chicago 2016 Olympic Committee has stolen parks in low-income African-American neighborhoods because they think we will just be quiet and take it- while white and more affluent neighborhoods wouldn't tolerate it," says Michael Johnson, an active parent who coaches a youth football team in Washington Park.

A map of where the city's parks are located clearly indicates the Committee could have had set these different competitions up in a wide variety of communities that are still close to the Olympic Village," said Rias.

"The Olympic Committee has talked about using parks that have breath-taking lakefront views, but only one of the three parks in the African American community is actually on the Lake Michigan. Chicago has a real lakefront park that extends along nearly the entire lakefront on Chicago's North Side, but this park is in the wealthiest part of the city and would never tolerate extensive shutdowns and construction," said Toni Stith, another signer of the Department of Justice complaint.

Parents also question why a city that faces a record \$500 million deficit for the coming fiscal year can shell out millions for the Olympics. Due to both city and state budget deficits this year, many social service and health care workers were laid off. "I would rather have a good teacher in my son's classroom than watch the Olympics through a fence," said Crystal Crockett, another parent who signed the federal complaint.

Michael Scott, Mayor Daley's appointed head of the Chicago Board of Education and a member of the committee seeking to bring the Olympics to Chicago, bet that real estate prices would go up around the Douglas Park Olympic venue on the West Side, when he bought run-down real estate near the park, where the Olympic bicycle-racing track will be built. When a journalist exposed Scott's activities, Scott dropped his ties to this land purchase.

Chicago's precarious financial position and the sense that insiders will be the primary beneficiaries, if the Olympics come to the Windy City, have helped contribute to a sharp drop in public support for the Chicago 2016 bid. Last February, 67% of Chicagoans supported holding the Games here, according to the Chicago Tribune. This percentage dropped to 47% in September, with 84% Chicagoans saying that no public money should be used to support the Games. The level of public support for the Olympics is one stated standard that the International Olympic Committee uses to judge competitors' bids.

"This percentage could sink even lower after lengthy Olympic construction forces families to curtail the use of parks in low-income African American communities, after these communities have been required to "donate" their parks for Olympic competitions in 2016." said Rias.

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Designs for Change
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No Games Chicago is an all-volunteer group of social justice activists, concerned citizens and grassroots organizations opposed to bringing the 2016 Olympics to Chicago. The group was launched on January 31, 2009 with a public forum at the University of Illinois Chicago. We have transmitted this press release from a member of the No Games Coalition, Designs for Change.

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