

MEDIA ALERT

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No Games Chicago in Switzerland to Oppose the Chicago 2016 Olympic Bid.

Lausanne, Switzerland -- June 16th, 2009

This week as the Chicago 2016 Bid Team presents its final pitch in Lausanne, Switzerland with hopes of winning the 2016 games, **No Games Chicago**, a diverse group of citizens who have come together to oppose the Chicago 2016 bid has traveled to Lausanne to oppose Chicago's bid and to call attention to the city's misplaced priorities as it aims to host the 2016 Summer Games.

Despite promises from City Hall, the Chicago 2016 bid continues to move forward via an unelected and unaccountable body that has operated without public hearings, referendums or opportunities for civic discussions. In the meantime, both the City of Chicago and State of Illinois have lined up hundreds of millions of taxpayer's dollars for the 2016 Olympic Games while basic city services and thousands of jobs are cut.

The lack of local government transparency along with the city's current financial deficits, debts and cost overruns—all of which have plagued recent Olympic host cities—has led No Games Chicago to Lausanne, Switzerland to oppose the Chicago 2016 Olympic Bid. No Games Chicago believes that the time, money, and energy placed into bidding and hosting the Olympics would be better spent on services and infrastructure that can improve the lives of average Chicagoans.

The delegation includes:

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 Lausanne, Switzerland at www.tresser.com or (41) 79-477-9792*

Rhoda Whitehorse has lived in Chicago for 40 years and is a former public school teacher. She is a mother and grandmother who cares deeply about the world they will inherit. *She can be reached at in Lausanne, Switzerland at whitehorse1@gmail.com or (41) 79-477-9793.*

Martin Macias Jr. is a youth organizer for the Chicago Environmental Justice Coalition, and Comite 10 de Marzo, an Immigrant Rights organization. He is also a media reform activist with the community radio station Radio Arte where he serves as the the host/producer of First Voice, a radio news zine. He currently chairs the Peace Committee at the National Museum of Mexican Art. *He can be reached in Lausanne, Switzerland at reclaimtheearth@gmail.com or (41) 79-477-9791.*

For more information, visit www.nogameschicago.com, contact Bob Quellos at nogameschicago@gmail.com or 312-235-2873 to arrange an interview with the No Games delegation.

