



September 2009

Dear IOC Member,

In a matter of hours you will vote on the city to host the 2016 Olympic Games—a vote with great implications not only for the city and country selected but for the Olympic Movement as well. Selecting a city where the Games would not be welcomed by the citizenry could have truly deleterious effects upon the Olympic Movement, and create a pattern that could carry over into future games.

**Chicagoans do NOT want the games.** There is plummeting support for the 2016 games, and the City of Chicago is in dire financial straits. A recent Chicago Tribune survey showed that 84% of polled Chicagoans said they did NOT want the games if public monies would be used. And less than half of all Chicagoans—47%—do not want the games here under any circumstances. The mayor's own (and most recent) approval rating is as low as 34%. These numbers indicate that the political situation is very unstable for the mayor and his allies.

**The financial risk is exponentially greater here in Chicago, and the IOC would have to bail out Chicago.** We understand the IOC has had to step in to pay the deficits of the Vancouver Games. The City of Chicago is projecting a \$500 million deficit in 2010. The city is closing for business for three days this year to save money.

No Games Chicago, an all-volunteer, self-funded organization of citizens from all walks of life, has offered you a more accurate picture of the “conditions on the ground” here than that presented by the paid cadres of highly paid experts working to sell you the bid.

Right now the combination of the financial condition of the city—unable to run even basic city services such as transportation as they should be run—plus the expressed opposition of so many Chicagoans—is a recipe for disaster for the city and an embarrassment for the IOC.

Please see the enclosed information in support of our argument.

Thank you for your consideration,

No Games Chicago

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