

# Chapter 53

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## Brazilian Gold – Bid President Arrested – No Games Erased Again

As if to underscore No Games Chicago’s research and assertions that the entire Olympic process is a corrupting city-killer we learned on October 5, 2017 – almost eight years to the day when Rio was awarded the 2016 Games – that Carlos Nuzman, the man in charge of Rio 2016 was arrested by federal authorities in Rio.

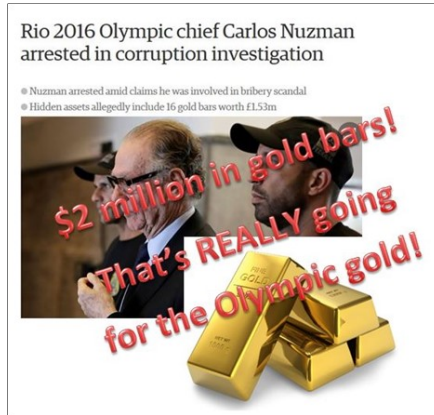


“The man in charge of last year’s Rio Olympics was arrested yesterday as it was alleged 16 gold bars worth \$2m (£1.53m) that were stored in a bank in Switzerland were

among his hidden assets. The investigation into corruption within the (IOC) escalated as Carlos Nuzman, the head of the Brazilian Olympic Committee, was detained amid claims he was a key figure in a bribery scandal which led to Rio de Janeiro being awarded South America’s first Olympics. Nuzman was arrested on suspicion of corruption, money laundering and participating in a criminal operation after Brazilian prosecutors alleged his estate increased in value by 457% between 2006

and 2016. They claimed not to have been able to locate any evidence of increased income. Leonardo Gryner, former chief operating officer of , was also arrested on the same charges.”<sup>235</sup>

\$2 million in GOLD BARS! Wow. Here’s the graphic I created and posted on the No Games Chicago website:



Nuzman was tried and found guilty.<sup>236</sup>

“Carlos Arthur Nuzman, the head of the Brazilian Olympic Committee for more than two decades, has been sentenced to 30 years and 11 months in jail for allegedly buying votes for to host the 2016 Olympics. The ruling by Judge Marcelo Bretas became public on Thursday. Nuzman, who also headed the organising committee, was found guilty of corruption, criminal organisation, money laundering and tax evasion. The 79-year-old will not be jailed until all his appeals are heard. He and his lawyer did not comment on the decision.

Bretas also sentenced to jail the former Rio governor Sergio Cabral, the businessman Arthur Soares and Leonardo Gryner, who was the Rio 2016 committee director-general of operations. Investigators say all three and Nuzman coordinated to bribe the former president of the International Association of Athletics Federations, Lamine Diack, as well as his son Papa Massata Diack for votes. Papa Massata Diack has previously and accused Cabral of trying to cut a deal.

Lamine Diack was sentenced to four years in jail, with two suspended, in September 2020 by a French court in relation to money laundering and corruption over Russian doping; Papa Massata Diack was sentenced in absentia to five years in prison and fined £1m. Both indicated their intention to appeal.

Cabral, who has been in jail since 2016 and faces a series of other convictions and investigations, told Bretas two years ago he had paid about \$2m in exchange for up to six votes in the International Olympic Committee (IOC) meeting that awarded Rio the Olympic and Paralympic Games. He said the money had come from a debt owed to him by Soares. Cabral, who governed Rio state between 2003 and 2010, added that another \$500,000 was paid later to Diack's son with the aim of securing three more votes of IOC members".

What a sad and sordid story.

Corruption and scandal has plagued the Olympics for decades. **Can you imagine how much corruption the 2016 Olympics would have unleashed in Chicago – the most corrupt city in America<sup>237</sup> – where Alderman Ed Burke would have been the Olympic Capo de Capo??**

This revelation caused a spasm of reaction from people involved with the 2016 Bid. Was Chicago cheated out of its rightful place in winning the 2016 Olympics?

John Murray sent an op-ed piece to Around the Rings, a web-based information service that covers sport and the Olympics.<sup>238</sup>

"I remember speaking with Pat Ryan on the one-year anniversary of the Copenhagen vote, and noting to him that not a single week had gone by in the previous year without someone inquiring about the loss. The inquiries were always similar: "what went wrong? how could we have lost in the first round? are we that bad?"

We had no proof then that we had been cheated, nor that Rio had spent \$2 million to bribe nine voting members. But we did know that something

wasn't quite right and that we had a phenomenal bid. After all, the IOC Evaluation Committee had ranked us above Rio in the technical phase and many longtime Olympic Games experts praised the quality of the operations plan designed under Doug Arnot's leadership. We definitely felt we deserved a better fate.

Thousands of people were involved in the Chicago bid effort, helping in ways big and small. It is disappointing to have to revisit this painful loss after all these years, but it also provides some solace.

You see, we always knew that the first round of the voting process would be our weakness; the votes were being spread across four geographically dispersed bid cities, all but Chicago with loyal supporters in their region of the world. European members (nearly half the votes) were likely to support Madrid and the legacy of Honorary IOC President Juan Samaranch in the first round.

Similarly, Asian voters were likely to support Japan and ensure they didn't suffer the culturally significant impact of losing face due to a first-round exit. Brazil was likely to have support from voters in Central and South America with their pursuit of the first games in the southern hemisphere.

That left Chicago with few natural supporters in the first round and it explains our focused efforts to court African votes along with our work to gain support across the board based on the merits of our Games plan and legacy. With less than 100 votes being cast, we knew that 25 votes would guarantee our move to the second round where we believed support would shift away from culture and tradition and toward pure strength of bids.

Carlos Nuzman and his fellow conspirators understood this as well, and it is telling that last week's testimony clearly stated that the bribes were only guaranteed for the first round of voting. They needed to take out their strongest competition at our weakest moment. The results are public

knowledge. Chicago received only 18 votes in the first round and was eliminated from contention. Rio secured 26 votes and went on to be named Host City.

Twenty-six votes; eight votes more than Chicago. And they bought nine of them. Chicago didn't lose anything. Once again, we gave away a Games that should have been ours to a city that couldn't do it on their own.

I am proud to be from the City that Works, to have competed fairly, and to have dared greatly. And I am proud of the people that worked so hard for so long. So many great things have come from the effort and from the people that participated, including the Chicago Sports Commission, which continues the bid's mission of bringing international sport to our city, and World Sport Chicago, whose bid legacy and mission to help Chicago's least fortunate youth continues today through Up2US Sports and their excellent coaching programs.

Chicago stands tall today. Tall and true."

"Chicago didn't lose anything." I can appreciate the indignation that the Chicago 2016 crew must feel that they got Big Shouldered out of the hunt. After all, bribery, intimidation, and threats were all part of Chicago's civic culture – and, as we have shown in this book – part and parcel of how the Bid was prosecuted here.

But Mr. Murray – like virtually every prognosticator we've heard from – refuses to acknowledge or even consider the possibility that No Games Chicago had already done the needed persuasion to enough IOC members to secure a NO vote on that first round of voting on Decision Day.



On July 8, 2019 The Chicago Tribune Editorial Board published an editorial headlined “How Rio cheated Chicago and won Olympic gold in corruption.”<sup>239</sup>

“How much did it cost to suck the air out of Chicago 10 years ago when the city was abruptly pushed out of the race to host the 2016 Summer Olympics? About \$2 million, according to Sergio Cabral, a jailed former governor of Rio de Janeiro state...**Not that Chicagoans should be shocked, shocked** by these allegations. The Olympics host-selection process has a history of being a hot mess. The latest accusations of bribery do resonate here. That’s partly because the ambitious but failed bid for 2016 had far-reaching implications for Chicago — and partly because the notion of Chicago being too ethical to prevail provokes a lot of dark humor...Mayor Richard M. Daley, who might well have stayed in office to shepherd Olympics preparations, instead announced a year later he would not run again, paving the way for Rahm Emanuel to lead the city for eight years. Daley had locked in long, lucrative union contracts to ensure labor peace through the Olympics, financial obligations the city had to meet amid massive budget deficits.

The city had also bought the former Michael Reese Hospital property for \$140 million, with plans to build an Olympic Village that could later be repurposed into residences. The land still sits fallow. **And what felt like a unique moment in time to pursue the Games was lost.** Chicago had President Barack Obama, Oprah Winfrey and Michael Jordan on its side, and a strong business presence led by Chicago 2016 chairman Pat Ryan...A Tribune poll at the time of the decision showed Chicagoans

split on whether they supported the bid or not. Those who opposed it got what they wanted: billions of dollars not spent on the Olympics. Others relished the idea of celebrating athleticism, spurring development and showcasing Chicago's sparkling lakefront architecture to a global audience. They have heard enough out of the Brazilian courts to console themselves that the stinging loss didn't mean their city or their efforts weren't worthy. If Cabral's story is true, somebody simply knew somebody who could be bought for the right price, and it changed the course of Chicago. While athletes stretched to reach new heights, politicians flexed only to extend palms for greasing. It's not a new story. This city is just accustomed to grifters who hold office closer to home."

Here the revisionists go again.

Here's my response to the Chicago Tribune from July 9, 2019:

*"All Wrong Again About the Bid for the 2016 Olympics"*

Your editorial "How Rio Cheated Chicago and Won Olympic Gold in Corruption" is inaccurate on a number of counts. You say that Chicagoans were "split" on support for the bid. Not so. Your own poll released in late August of 2009 showed only 47% support for the bid and an overwhelming 84% disapproved of using tax revenue for Olympic overruns. Since all recent Olympic games have gone massively over budget and left host cities billions of dollars in the red - that was effectively a huge "No thank you" from the people of Chicago to Mayor Daley and his 2016 Committee. But my main objection to your editorial is that seeks to write the work of No Games Chicago ([www.nogameschicago.com](http://www.nogameschicago.com)) from the record for the fourth time.

The first time was when we were in the field and you refused to cover our work in any detail or substance.

The second was one year after the loss of the Games when it was apparent that Mayor Daley was not running again and our loss of the 2016

Games was partly cited as a reason. Since 2009 was the Centennial Year of the Burnham Plan, it was a wonderful teaching moment to ask why we sought the bid, why we lost the bid, and who would've profited and who would've been decimated by the 2016 Games playing out here. But no one was interested in who we were, what we did or how we know we influenced the vote of the IOC members gathered at Bella Center in Copenhagen on October 2, 2009.

The third time you ignored our work was in the aftermath of the 2016 Games held in Rio. You - as well as the Sun-Times and Crain's Chicago Business- all 2016 boosters recanted and editorialized how lucky Chicago was to "dodge our funeral" as one of your columnists wrote. The loss of the bid was not an accident. The work of No Games Chicago was instrumental in getting Chicago eliminated in the first round of voting - securing just 18 votes out the 94 votes cast that morning. So, 76 IOC members said "No Games for Chicago" in the first round. Bribery can't explain such an overwhelming rejection of Chicago's bid for the 2016 Games.

The fourth time you refused to acknowledge our work is happening right now as you ask "How much did it cost to suck the air out of Chicag o...when the city was abruptly pushed out of the race?" Well, I can tell you the exact answer to that question. A little over \$10,000. That's how much No Games Chicago spent in 2009 to defeat the bid for the 2016 Olympics."

In the end, we will never know the full truth. IOC members vote in secret. They are not compelled to explain their votes and you can't trust them to report their motivations accurately after the fact.