



NO GAMES HAND OUTS

a PUBLIC forum

Why we should say 'NO' to the CHICAGO 2016 Olympic Bid.

SATURDAY, JAN. 31st @ 6PM

UIC * Student Center East * 750 S. Halsted * Room 605

THE CITY OF CHICAGO HAS entered into bidding for the 2016 Summer Olympics with little public debate or discussion about the merits of hosting the event. Chicago 2016 and the Mayor are promising the Olympics will be a boon to Chicago. However, past Olympics have proven to be a burden on cities; leaving behind mountains of debt and empty sporting facilities - while promised job growth and public infrastructure improvements never come to fruition.

Already, the 2012 Summer Olympics in London are four times over budget - with security costs alone expected to exceed \$2 billion. Meanwhile, revelations about the Olympic Village for the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics continue to surface. Not only are the people of Vancouver now on the hook for \$875 million dollars to finish the Olympic Village (that was originally to be funded through private dollars) -- the project may leave the city bankrupt.

Join NO GAMES: Chicago for a panel discussion on why Chicagoans have nothing to gain from the Olympics and why we should actively oppose them.

Join a panel discussion with:

CHRISTOPHER SHAW author of *Five Ring Circus: Myths and Realities of the Olympic Games* and founding member / lead spokesperson for two groups in opposition to Vancouver's 2010 Winter Olympics: No Games 2010 Coalition and 2010 Watch.

DEBORAH TAYLOR of Southside Together Organizing for Power (STOP) and Lake Park East Tenants Association.

KAREN GJ LEWIS of the Caucus of Rank and File Educators (CORE)

WILLIE J.R. FLEMING of the Coalition to Protect Public Housing and the Chicago Independent Human Rights Council

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for more information about this event or NO GAMES: Chicago
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5 BIG LIES. 1 SAD TRUTH



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"Our vision is intended to stir the soul of the world: The Chicago 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games will use sport as a catalyst to demonstrably strengthen the Olympic Movement. Our Games will inspire young and old, Chicagoans and citizens around the world." - The Chicago 2016 Committee.

The Chicago 2016 Committee is lying to you. They are planning to spend over \$5 billion on the 2016 Summer Olympics. The federal government is broke. The state of Illinois is \$11.6 billion in the red (IL Office of management and Budget, Briefing Fiscal Year 2010). The Cook County government is a shambles. The City of Chicago projects a \$300 million deficit by the end of 2009 (Official City of Chicago press release, May 7, 2009).

The City of Vancouver, host of the 2010 Winter Games is nearing bankruptcy. The London 2012 Summer Games are some \$9 billion over budget. The games would be the greatest disaster to hit Chicago since the Great Fire.

Here are the 5 big lies the Olympic organizers are telling us (1 for each ring)...

1. The games create jobs that make sense.

We know that some jobs would be created from over \$2 billion in bloated construction projects. But we want jobs that will benefit ALL Chicago and that will build Chicago for the future - not for a party that lasts three weeks. The trades in Vancouver were promised great jobs and then found out that those construction jobs were given to low-paid workers brought in from abroad!

2. The games make money.

The games are huge sink holes for their host cities. Vancouver is on the verge of bankruptcy and the London games are almost \$9 billion over budget. Remember, the Mayor loves to use your money for his pet projects and they always go WAY over budget. Remember the monumental overruns for "Soldier Field" and "Millennium Park"? The federal government is broke. The state is \$11.6 billion in the red. The county budget is a joke. The city is over \$300million in the hole. How can we afford over \$890 million in stadium construction and all the other costs that we know is involved? The city of Montreal hosted the 1976 summer games and they JUST paid off their debts in 2006!

3. The games bring civic pride.

The 2016 boosters say they want to make Chicago a "world class" city. We ARE a great city. What would make us better would be all our kids getting a world class education and all our citizens getting world class health care. Real pride comes from a world class transit system, decent housing for all and a police force that respected human rights, not abused them. Realize that the Olympic Games bring a mini-police state with them and civil rights are curtailed and the homeless are swept away to avoid unpleasant TV images. Ask the folks in Atlanta or Vancouver where poverty was and is being criminalized.

4. The games are green.

That's a laugh. Most of the venues in Chicago are slated for public parks which will be tom up and paved over to accommodate stadiums and support facilities and then mostly tom down. A 20,000 seat tennis venue is supposed to be built in the shadow of the Jarvis Bird Sanctuary in Lincoln Park at a cost of \$31 million. The Park District is laying off hundreds of workers now and they can't pick up the trash or clean the bathrooms - so does it make any sense to spend our money on a tennis stadium that will destroy the bird sanctuary and then be tom down? It's the same or worse in Douglas Park, Jackson Park and Grant Park.

5. The games will benefit neighborhoods.

Despite what some neighbors have been told, you will NOT benefit from the Olympics. You won't get a job. Your business will not reap huge profits. If you live near an Olympic venue you WILL see your property taxes go up. If your home is in the way of a needed venue site - you will be forced to sell and move. If you are part of an effort to extract some goodies from the city in return for your organization's support for the games, you are being duped. Who is the agreement with? Who will enforce this agreement? Have you had good luck with the city's other promises? How is the city's overall record with regard to the rule of law and accountability? Don't be fooled by threats or bribes. The games will not help our neighborhoods. They WILL help gentrify them. They WILL bleed them of needed funds and they WILL push people out.

THE ONE SAD TRUTH...

They play. You pay.

The Olympic Games will bankrupt the city of Chicago and YOU will pay the bills.

Contribute/sign up at www.nogameschicago.com – nogameschicago@gmail.com - Phone: 312-235-2873