

August 26, 2004

Dr. Jacques Rogge
President
International Olympic Committee
Château de Vidy
1007 Lausanne SWITZERLAND

Dear Dr. Rogge,

It is with regret that we write to you on a matter of critical importance regarding the NYC2012 Olympic bid—a matter which we believe threatens to undermine the values and policies the International Olympic Committee seeks to promote.

Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn had hoped this issue would be subject to the candidate city's environmental processes and approvals. In the case of New York's bid, however, that process has been made moot. Knowing that our City Council would never approve the two divisive venues discussed below, NYC2012 has chosen to circumvent the Council and would have these venues approved by an unelected bureaucracy, unaccountable to our City government. Crucial decisions would thus be made without our City's or citizens' input, before the Evaluation Commission has been able to file its report. That is why we are taking the unusual step of appealing directly to you.

The Facts: NYC2012 recently announced the addition of two new venues to its Olympic bid—the "Jets Stadium," proposed for Manhattan's West Side, and the "Nets Arena" proposed for Brooklyn. These projects share several troubling features:

- They are bitterly opposed by the neighborhoods in which they are sited
- They were conceived in secret, without public input (or even prior knowledge)
- They are structured so as to avoid New York City's customary environmental regulations and its normal land use review processes, as well as to avoid legislative review, approval and oversight by the New York City Council

Dr. Jacques Rogge
Page Two

- They are being promoted as “essential” to New York’s Olympic bid, which the public is being told will be lost if construction on both projects does not begin *prior* to your vote next summer.

Dr. Rogge, it is with regret that we inform you that the International Olympic Committee is being blamed for the divisive venue plans in New York. As *The New York Times* reported on August 6th:

“You would not get the Olympics, there is just no question about that,” [Mayor Michael] Bloomberg said when asked how the bid would go if community opposition scuttled the stadium plans. “The **Olympic Committee** takes this plan, and if they’re not convinced that you are going ahead and building [the Manhattan stadium and Brooklyn arena], we won’t be selected.”

On August 17th, the Mayor reiterated to ABC-TV that:

“If we don’t get that [stadium] done we will have to drop out of the Olympic competition....”

To the best of our knowledge, the use of this empty rhetoric to manipulate citizens into accepting unnecessary development marks a new abuse of the Olympic bid process. Worse, it implies that the IOC would favor a bid based on undemocratic and destructive processes.

We know that requiring bid cities to go billions of dollars into debt is not only antithetical to the Olympic Charter, it is completely contrary to the IOC’s policy to control cost and complexity that was adopted at the 115th Session last year. Unfortunately, NYC2012 is ignoring your efforts to reduce gigantism, to the detriment of the bid and of our community

As citizens of New York City, we therefore feel that we must call on you and the IOC to refute these claims by reaffirming to New York City’s bid committee and public officials that:

1. The IOC does not countenance bids that involve the gratuitous destruction of homes and neighborhoods, when suitable alternatives exist (as they do in New York City); and
2. The IOC does not countenance bids that circumvent a candidate city’s normal approval process in the name of attracting an Olympics.

Dr. Jacques Rogge
Page Three

We are grateful for your support in this critical matter, and for championing a bid process that will create a just and lasting legacy.

Yours truly,

Daniel Goldstein, for
DEVELOP DON'T DESTROY BROOKLYN

cc: Urs Lacotte, Director General
Gilbert Felli, Olympic Games Executive Director
Richard W. Pound, Comité Olympique Canadien
Michael Bloomberg, Mayor, New York City
Dan Doctoroff, Deputy Mayor, NYC2012

***DEVELOP DON'T DESTROY BROOKLYN leads a broad-based community coalition
fighting for development that will unite our communities
instead of dividing and destroying them.***