

Who's the Next Fool!?

Does anyone remember NYC2012? Does anyone remember the arguments City Hall and the 2012 folks made that NYC could win the Olympic bid without signing a guarantee that NYC assumes full fiscal responsibility for the games? Well, Chicago Mayor Daley just [committed](#) to signing the standard Olympic host city contract, which would give Chicago full financial responsibility for the 2016 Summer Olympics. NYC never made that commitment and City Hall kept insisting it would win the 2012 games anyway; that scheme included the [Far West Stadium](#) that never happened as New York City lost a chance to re-claim the Jets (by focusing on the Far West Side site) and New York State lost the Jets who maintained practice facility at my [alma mater](#) altogether to New Jersey. The news from the Windy City cause me to recall a few lines in a [song](#) by my favorite [band](#) (who, by the way, re-unite with their [founder](#) wrote the [song](#) at [Jones Beach](#) and other venues this summer): "When will you be through; You're just thinking of you; Who's your next fool?" Well, we need a few more New Yorkers to stop playing the fool. Interestingly, "[I Guess You Made It](#)" concludes with this statement to its protagonist, "You made up your own rules, You're the next fool!" Will it be so?

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In major change, Mayor Daley will sign host city contract

Kathy Bergen and Philip Hersh

Tribune staff reporters, June 17, 2009

LAUSANNE, Switzerland – In a major change of position, Mayor Richard Daley told the Tribune Wednesday that he will sign the standard Olympic host city contract, which would give the city full financial responsibility for mounting the 2016 Summer Games.

The city had been seeking exceptions to the contract because its bid is backed only by limited financial guarantees. This has been an Achilles' heel for the bid because the other three finalists--Madrid, Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo--are offering full government guarantees.

"We are going to sign it as is," Daley said after Chicago's presentation to the International Olympic Committee members Wednesday morning. International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge confirmed the mayor gave this assurance to the IOC during its presentation.

"There is no amendment to the host city contract whatsoever from the IOC," Rogge said. [Read more](#)

Olympics funding: City Council in no mood for games

Aldermen rush in to criticize Daley's about-face on funding

By Hal Dardick, Philip Hersh and Kathy Bergen
Tribune reporters, June 19, 2009

Mayor Richard Daley may have smoothed the waters in Switzerland this week by dropping his refusal to sign the International Olympic Committee's standard host-city contract. But his abrupt – and unilateral -- decision to place the full financial responsibility for the 2016 Summer Games on the city has touched off a storm at home.

Daley may not have anticipated the local reaction, because a day after he asserted that there was no reason to consult with aldermen on this commitment, his spokeswoman said the mayor would indeed meet with the City Council.

Aldermen and civic leaders are railing against a perceived lack of information on how Daley could make that pledge and still say the city's liability will not exceed the \$500 million guarantee agreed to earlier.

Until Daley's about-face Wednesday, the city had been pursuing changes to the standard host-city agreement that would recognize its limited-guarantee package. [Read More](#)

Daley sows confusion on his Olympics guarantee

Originally posted: June 26, 2009

Mayor Richard Daley today attempted to dampen the political firestorm [he sparked](#) while overseas last week when he told Olympics officials that Chicago would financially guarantee the 2016 Summer Games.

His remarks this afternoon, however, only further confused the issue.

The mayor, back in Chicago and addressing the issue locally for the first time today, seemed to contradict his own statements in Switzerland, as well as the public remarks of Chicago 2016 chief Pat Ryan and International Olympics Committee President Jacques Rogge.

“We agreed to sign a host city agreement with the provisions of the city, state and the insurance policy as added on to the host city agreement. That's what it's going to be and that is our protection for the taxpayers of the city of Chicago,” Daley said today with Lori Healey, Chicago 2016 president and the mayor’s former chief of staff, at his side.

But that version is markedly different from Daley's remarks immediately after emerging from his June 17 meeting with the IOC, when he told the Tribune he had just agreed to sign the host city contract "as is."

In a subsequent interview last week, the IOC's Rogge confirmed that Daley had agreed to sign the standard contract without modifications.

"The mayor said he will sign the host city contract. **We have only one host city contract,**" Rogge said at the time. **"There is no amendment to the host city contract whatsoever from the IOC."** [Emphasis added by QCC] [Read more](#)

This comment from the party who shared the June 26 article above with us: "Bloomberg maintained the opposite all the way to his humiliating 4th place finish. A disgrace."