

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 10, 2009

Mr. Philip Whiteford  
International Olympic Committee  
1111 Avenue de la  
Liberté  
1000 Lausanne  
Switzerland

Dear Mr. Whiteford:

I deeply appreciate the tremendous work of the Olympic Movement and wish to convey my strong support for Chicago 2016.

Around the world, sports play a vital role in filling young people with hope, providing a foundation for respect, and leading nations toward greater friendship and excellence. I have seen the transformative power of the Olympic Games to unite men and women across all boundaries, and I hold the mission of the Olympic Movement in the highest esteem.

That is why I have been committed to Chicago 2016 since the launch of the bid in 2006. The City of Chicago is designed to host global celebrations, and it will deliver a spectacular Olympic experience for one and all. However, it is not the quality of the setting or the experience alone that compels me to recommend Chicago to you. I also believe that Chicago 2016 offers the United States and the International Olympic Committee a unique chance to collaborate on sport development and build a better future for young people everywhere.

As President, I see the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games as an extraordinary opportunity for America to renew our bonds of friendship and welcome the world to our shores with open arms. If you honor Chicago with your selection, we will ensure that the Olympic and Paralympic Games are a key priority for our Nation. We have already established a White House Office of Olympic, Paralympic and Youth Sport to serve the Games, and you can count on our government to support Chicago's quest to host an unforgettable event and strengthen the Olympic Movement.

As a member of the International Olympic Committee, the work you do is invaluable to all of us who are committed to building a better world. Thank you for your enduring contributions to youth sport and the Olympic Movement. I believe we have an historic opportunity to do great things together, and I look forward to discussing that opportunity with you, if not in Copenhagen, then soon thereafter if Chicago is your choice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tommy L. Sandberg', written in a cursive style.