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Still in the running

After meeting with United States Olympic Committee officials in May, Philadelphia delegates made a second presentation at the committee's request.

By [Lorraine Gennaro](#)

June 29, 2006

"Extremely well."

That's how Mayor John Street spokesperson Joe Grace described the June 23 meeting in La Jolla, Calif., with city officials and the United States Olympic Committee (USOC).

After hosting USOC officials May 9 in Philadelphia, the organization invited the City of Brotherly Love to California to give a 15-minute presentation. Four other Olympic-hopeful cities - Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles and San Francisco - were also asked to reappear before the 11-member board last Friday.

Philadelphia 2016 Co-Chair person Joe Torsella, City Commerce Director Stephanie Naidoff and paralympian April Holmes pitched the city during the second go-round on the West Coast.

Written materials submitted two days before the meeting on June 21 contained a letter from Street, reemphasizing Philadelphia's commitment and interest, Grace said.

"We are enthused, engaged and ready to be a partner with the USOC as it contemplates submitting a bid to the International Olympic Committee for the 2016 Games here in the United States - and here in Philly," Grace said.

After the May meeting, Street held a press conference in Love Park with USOC Chairman Peter V. Ueberroth and other representatives. The mayor called the gathering "very refreshing," before quickly turning things over to Ueberroth, who said, "This is a city on the move in the right direction and you have a lot to be proud about."

Shawn Jalosinski, executive director of [Stadium Complex Special Services District](#), is on the Philadelphia 2016 Infrastructure Advisory Committee. Philadelphia 2016 is an organization dedicated to bringing the Olympics to town.

Jalosinski is all for letting the games begin because of the stadiums.

"I am very pleased and proud that Philadelphia is pursuing a future Olympic games. Locally, the existing Sports Complex in South Philadelphia already offers a unique combination of world-class venues, in valued close proximity to one another, that could serve well on the international stage of a successful Philadelphia Olympic games," the director said.

Jalosinski feels the 2016 Games will have long-lasting benefits, not only for the city but for the region and adjacent communities, as well.

"There would be obvious physical legacies, such as improved transit and transportation infrastructure, along with citywide beautification projects. From a community perspective, a Philadelphia Olympics would absolutely improve neighborhood quality of life in the long-term," he said.

With a second pitch now in the bag, Philadelphia and the other four U.S. Olympic-hopeful cities must wait to see if the USOC submits a bid to the IOC. At the May press conference, Ueberroth stressed bidding is an

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international process and his organization may decide not to offer a bid to IOC for America to play host at all. If USOC chooses to submit a bid, the deadline is March 2007.

Even if Philly does not turn up a victor, just to have made it this far is an honor, Jalosinski said.

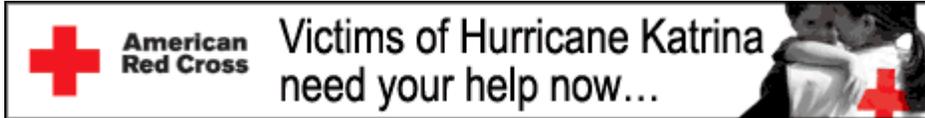
"It is an exciting opportunity for the city to pursue. Philadelphia is a world-class city that should continue to be recognized as such and more," he said.

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