

[Presentations]

Chicago 2016 Olympic Committee

Presentations to the Media and U.S. Olympic Committee

Mayor Richard A. Daley, Jr.

One of the most positive comments about Chicago and the news media over the last several years was made in National Geographic's *Traveler's* magazine, and I quote: "It referred to Chicago as "the most American city," and said our city "blends Midwest manners with a world-class cultural scene." You see this observation time and time again in the national and international media. Here is a city in the heart of a nation with world-class art, architecture, music, drama, dining and core sports.

Chicago is both an American and international city in the middle of North America, but easily accessible from all points of the globe. Our residents are friendly and welcoming. We know how to host big events. We believe that we have a strong plan that truly represents the best elements of both Chicago and the Olympic Games; a plan that touches virtually every part of our city, focuses on the athletes, and helps further the Olympic movement by building passion for sports, culture, education and the environment for future generations around the world.

And one of the reasons why I'm so enthusiastic about our Olympic preparation is that our Planning Committee has such great leadership. I said a minute ago that Chicago has prospered because of our civic involvement by business leaders, and you'll hear from two of them: Pat Ryan and Miles White. And one of the business leaders who has given most to this city is the Chairman of Aon Corporation, Pat Ryan. We are very fortunate to have him directing our preparations for the 2016 Olympic Games as Chairman of Chicago's 2016 Committee. It's now my great pleasure to introduce my good friend, Pat Ryan. Pat?

Pat Ryan

Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and thank you for that thunderous applause. Anyhow, we're going to show a little video because one of our key supporters committed to be in Washington for every vote. But we'd like you to hear from Barack Obama and how he feels about Chicago, and the possibility of our hosting the 2016 Summer Olympics.