

USOC buoyed by response to possible 2024 Games bid

Matt Cutler

The US Olympic Committee (USOC) has said it is pleased with the response it has received from cities interested in possibly bidding for the 2024 Olympic Games, adding that it expects to make a final decision over whether to proceed by the end of 2014.

The USOC last month moved a step closer towards returning to the Olympic bidding field after issuing a letter to the mayors of 35 cities in an effort to gauge interest in a possible tilt at the Summer Games. The letter from USOC chief executive Scott Blackmun was sent to the United States' 25 largest cities, along with 10 others. The USOC confirmed in July that it would seek to re-enter the Olympic Games bidding fray from 2024, after shelving any prospect of an attempt at the 2022 Winter Games.

The announcement came after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the USOC brought an end to a long-running dispute over the share of Olympic Games commercial revenues by announcing a new deal at SportAccord Convention in May. The deal opened the door to a possible US Olympic Games bid, with the USOC having pulled back from entering a bid since the huge disappointment of Chicago finishing last in the candidate cities vote for the 2016 Summer Olympics.

Speaking on Friday, Blackmun would not directly comment on those cities that have already expressed their interest, but Los Angeles has already stated it would be keen to host a third Olympics while Dallas and New York are also believed to be among those considering a bid. Following its bruising experience in Rio de Janeiro's ultimately successful campaign to secure the 2016 Games, Chicago has ruled itself out for 2024 along with Detroit.

Blackman said, according to Reuters: "We've gotten a handful of really positive responses and a handful of, 'gee thanks for asking but this isn't the right fit for us'. We are pleased with the level of interest people have shown but we also want to respect the rights of cities to engage in this process quietly if this is what they elect to do so we are not going to say anything about which cities we are talking to and which cities we are not for now."

He added: "We're going to continue informal discussions with any and all interested cities this year. Then sometime early next year we hope to be working with a shortlist of cities, two maybe three talking about the details of what a bid might look like with the view of being in a position by the end of 2014 to make a decision." The United States has not hosted the Summer Olympics since Atlanta in 1996, while Salt Lake City was the last American city to stage the Winter Games in 2002. The likes of Rome, Paris, Doha, Dubai and Durban have expressed an interest in bidding for the 2024 Games.

Fonte: SportBusiness International. Disponível em:
<<http://www.sportbusiness.com/news/188345/usoc-buoyed-by-response-to-possible-2024-games-bid>>. Acesso em: 11 Mar. 2013.