

Thursday, October 31, 2002

New York City competes for 2012 summer Olympic games

Two cities compete for Olympic gold

New York City and the San Francisco Bay area are the two finalists for the potential U.S. site for the 2012 Olympic Games. On Saturday, the U.S. Olympic Committee will decide which of the two culturally diverse tourist meccas will be chosen as the American candidate.

San Francisco Bay area

- 92 percent of venues within a 32-mile radius
- 80 percent of venues already in place
- Comfortable summer climate
- Natural beauty of area will draw visitors
- Advanced technology capabilities
- Almost 70,000 hotel rooms will be available
- Regional bid with San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, and Sacramento
- \$2.4 billion budget, \$409 million projected surplus
- \$2.7 billion budget

SOURCES: NYC2012; BASOC; Associated Press

Olympic stadium and an adjoining 8-acre plaza.

Some New Yorkers, particularly in the Hell's Kitchen section near where the stadium would be built, claim the project would destroy neighborhoods, displace poor and middle-income residents and saddle taxpayers with a huge bill.

"The city can probably handle it. The question is, do the citizens want to handle it?"

Discretion ended when Bob Trumbour, a South Illinois University professor who studies stadium politics, hung up, that might hurt him. Trumbour believes leaders from the sports teams looking for prospects, and homeowners might jump in to shoulder the financial load on the city, but not enough to take most of the burden off taxpayers.

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EVANSVIL
A French
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Bill McBride, the Democratic no
for governor, released a letter to Pres
Bush asking him to order the Ha
release. He also took to Haitian-Am
airwaves.

"We should not have one set of r
apply to one set of people and one set
rules to apply to Haitians," McBride
during a call Wednesday to WSRF-A
Fort Lauderdale.

Thousands of Haitians each year
dangerous voyages aboard rickety
boats to flee their impoverished isla
Unlike Cubans, Haitian immigrants
are denied asylum and sent back.

About 4,000 immigrants have been
detained at sea this year, including
1,500 Haitians, the Coast Guard said.

The Bush administration
changed its detention policy on Ha
refugees in December to discourage
fear mass exodus. Before the change,
Haitian immigrants applying for asyl
were released into the community until
their petitions were processed. Since
change, Haitians have been kept in im
gration custody.

Immigration attorneys sued the gove
ment in March, saying the new policy
detention was biased.

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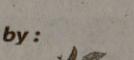
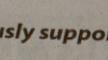
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