NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

Olympics Boosters Mustn't Step on Each Others' Toes

Local promoters so far have done a commendable job of keeping New York in the running to host the 2012 Olympics. The city is among four finalists competing for the U.S. bid, the winner of which will vie against several cities from around the world.

But much remains to be done, and their success to date is no reason to assume the NYC2012 organizers can go the distance alone. Enter the New York Olympic Games Commission. Gov. George Pataki wisely created the 15-member body last week, to assist with the attempt to bring the event to New York City.

The commission's specific functions are undefined, but careful coordination with local promoters ought to be among its priorities. It's best not to give the U.S. Olympic Committee even the slightest impression that government support is somehow out of sync with NYC2012's privately funded efforts.

Infrastructure improvements for the games are likely to require some public funding, so several commission members in particular may prove valuable. Among them: representatives of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Port Authority, the Department of Transportation and the Empire State Development Corp.

The governor's appointment of businessman David Cornstein as commission chairman also is promising. The lifelong New Yorker is credited with rebuilding the city's Off-Track Betting Corp. as chairman.

Cornstein's new assignment demands just as much savvy and dexterity. He can start by eliminating the risk of miscommunication by working out the commission's role with NYC2012. New York may be a sentimental favorite, because of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, but nothing should be left to chance.

NEWSDAY, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2001

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