

## Lopez, Donna

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**From:** Saul Tannenbaum [saul@tannenbaum.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 21, 2015 2:56 PM  
**To:** City Council; Lopez, Donna  
**Subject:** Further action on the Olympics is required  
**Attachments:** OlympicBid.pdf

To the Honorable, The City Council,

I thank you for your previous action opposing the Olympics. As I'm sure you know, despite your opposition, Boston 2024 submitted a bid and the US Olympic Committee chose Boston to represent the United States.

Today's release of Olympic documents makes it clear that Cambridge will be deeply involved, providing venues, race courses and hotels.

Also today, it was revealed that Boston Mayor Marty Walsh signed a non-disparagement agreement with the US Olympic Committee requiring City employees only to make positive statements about the Olympics.

Allowing a private organization to restrict the speech of city staff is anti-democratic.

I attach a draft Policy Order which I hope you will consider to make sure that no such thing happens in Cambridge. City staff should be free to offer their professional judgment, not have it predetermined by private forces.

Thank you for your consideration.

Copied to Donna Lopez for inclusion in the formal record.

- Saul Tannenbaum  
16 Cottage St.

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Saul Tannenbaum [saul@tannenbaum.org](mailto:saul@tannenbaum.org) [blog:saultannenbaum.org](http://blog:saultannenbaum.org)  
Read [CambridgeHappenings.org](http://CambridgeHappenings.org), a daily Cambridge news summary, curated from fresh, local sources.

- Whereas: The Cambridge City Council has gone on record as being opposed to a “Boston” bid for the Olympic Games in 2024.
- Whereas: Boston 2024, a private organization, did submit such a bid.
- Whereas: The United States Olympic Committee selected the “Boston” bid to represent the United States as the host city for the 2024 Olympics
- Whereas: Cambridge venues are proposed as part of this bid, with MIT hosting archery and Magazine Beach hosting the triathlon, with its route including Memorial Drive and Massachusetts Avenue.
- Whereas: The bid documents made public by Boston 2024 revealed that Boston Mayor Marty Walsh signed, as “boilerplate”, a non–disparagement agreement with the US Olympic committee, prohibiting the City and its officers and employees from making statements that “reflect unfavorably upon, denigrate, or disparage, or are detrimental to the reputation or statue of the IOC, the IPC, the IOC Bid, the Bid Committee or the Olympic or Paralympic movement.”.
- Whereas: The bid documents further require that the City, including officers and employees shall each promote the Bid Committee, the USOC, the IOC Bid, and the Olympic and Paralympic movements in a positive manner.
- Whereas: A private organization restricting the freedom of speech of officials who represent their citizens is anti-democratic.
- Resolved: That the City Council go on record opposing Cambridge entering into any such agreement and supporting City staff in providing professional judgments about the Olympics no matter their content.
- Resolved: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report to the City Council any agreements signed between the City and Boston 2024 or the US Olympic Committee, or other organizations representing Olympic interests.
- Resolved: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to bring any proposed agreement regarding the Olympics to the City Council for discussion prior to signing.