

JOF

The Jesse Owens
Foundation

401 North Michigan
Chicago, Illinois 60611
312/527-3311

November 9, 1994

OFFICERS

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Mrs. Jesse Owens
Vice Chairman and Assistant Secretary
Gloria Owens Hemphill
Administrator
Chicago Board of Education

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Senior Vice President
The Equitable Financial Companies

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Manager, External Affairs
ARCO

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International Olympic Committee

Dr. Harvey W. Schiller
Executive Director
United States Olympic Committee

Director Emeritus
Charles McMurray, Jr.
Special Assistant
The Ohio State Alumni Association

Mr. James Pinion
County Agent-Coordinator
The Alabama Cooperative Extension Service
Auburn University
Lawrence County Office
3075 AL HWY 157, Suite 6
Moulton, AL 35650

Dear Mr. Pinion:

Thank you for forwarding the minutes from March 24, 1993, September 8, 1994 and October 20, 1994 meetings of the Jesse Owens Park Board.

After reviewing the minutes from the October 20, 1994 meeting, we have identified a number of discrepancies to which we feel it important to respond. They are as follows:

1. Gloria and Marvin Fitzgerald met with the Jesse Owens family in Chicago on September 28, 1994 at their urging.
2. Mrs. Owens and the family are not familiar with any of the Board members and are, therefore, not in a position to render an opinion on them or their activities as it relates to the Jesse Owens Park or anything else.
3. The family has never sat in judgment of what the Board is or has been doing over the years. We are, in fact, impressed with what has been done, particularly in the face of all the controversy on a number of levels.
4. The Owens family is troubled and confused by the conflict over local fundraising efforts. We have not rendered an opinion on this, but do feel that any efforts on behalf of the Jesse Owens Park should be guided by and have the blessings of the Board of Directors.
5. It is our understanding that the Board of Directors has established By-Laws. In responding to Gloria and Marvin's concern about how the Board operates, it was suggested that they review the By-Laws and if they were not

being followed, the matter should be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors. Should the Board see fit, the By-Laws could be amended to address any discrepancies.

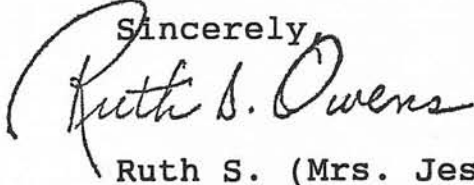
6. The Jesse Owens Family is not in a position nor wish to dictate what is a Board matter and a Board decision. Local fundraising is a matter that should be discussed and decided by the Board of Directors. If Gloria Fitzgerald is doing a good job and the fundraising activities are consistent with the fundraising plan and goals established by the Board, in addition to maintaining the proper image of Jesse Owens, then perhaps the Board should consider allowing the activity to continue. But again, that is a Board decision.
7. In order to be kept abreast of the activities related to the Jesse Owens Park, the family asked that we receive the minutes from the meetings. Responding to Fitzgerald's concerns that the minutes would be altered and would not be representative of actual proceedings, it was suggested that perhaps they could be taped with permission, of course.
8. As we expressed in our meeting with you, Mr. Pinion, and Mr. Buchanan, we felt it important for Marvin Fitzgerald, a family member and long time supporter of this project to remain on the Board. We encouraged him to express his concerns in Board meetings so that they could be properly responded to.
9. While we very much appreciate all of the work and effort on the part of all of you in the interest of the Jesse Owens Park, we have not expressed this gratitude in any other way but verbally. A statement was issued to Paula Hovater to be read at a press conference on the occasion of Dr. LeRoy Walker's address to the corporate, business and academic community in the interest of gaining support for this project. (see attached)

It is my sincere hope that these nine items be submitted by someone on the Board as an addendum to the minutes of the October 20, 1994 meeting. We hoped that those involved in this project had the purest of intentions and that is to see a great Olympian, Humanitarian and citizen of the world represented in the his home state in a way

that would endure over time.

We applaud and encourage your efforts on this project and thank you for remembering Jesse Owens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ruth S. Owens". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Ruth S. (Mrs. Jesse) Owens
and family.