

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 932

By Powell

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Nashville SC upon its inaugural season of competition in Major League Soccer.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to commemorate the debut of Major League Soccer (MLS) in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, a concept that began as a dream soon became a reality when MLS awarded Nashville an expansion franchise on December 20, 2017; and

WHEREAS, a mere twenty-six months later, Nashville SC will play its first MLS regular season game versus Atlanta United on February 29, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Nashville SC is owned by Nashville Soccer Holdings, LLC, which is led by majority owner, philanthropist, businessman, and sports enthusiast John R. Ingram, chairman of Ingram Industries, Inc., and also includes the Turner family, managing partners of Nashville-based MarketStreet Enterprises, and Mark, Zygi, and Leonard Wilf; and

WHEREAS, described by MLS Commissioner Don Garber as a community that represents the new America that is the MLS brand, Nashville has been blessed with a passionate fan base, a dedicated ownership group, and civic leaders that truly believe in professional soccer; with this triumvirate in place, Nashville SC will surely experience long-term success in the Capital City's already burgeoning sports market; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Garber and the league in general are to be commended for recognizing the potential and growing excitement for soccer in the dynamic city of Nashville and acting accordingly; and

WHEREAS, energy and enthusiasm are building exponentially for Nashville SC's initial MLS season and first MLS game; more than 40,000 tickets have already been sold for the February 29th home opener at Nissan Stadium; and

WHEREAS, as the result of an innovative private-public partnership between the club and the community, Nashville SC's permanent home will be a new 27,500-seat soccer stadium at The Fairgrounds Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Nashville SC is fortunate to enjoy the creativity and capabilities of Chief Executive Officer Ian Ayre; Chief Revenue Officer Will Alexander; General Manager Mike Jacobs; and Head Coach Gary Smith; and

WHEREAS, just prior to opening its first MLS season, Nashville SC bolstered its roster by adding the MLS Best-XI centerback for 2019; and

WHEREAS, in addition to major league football and hockey, major conference collegiate football, basketball, and baseball, and Triple-A baseball, Nashville is now the proud and passionate home of the twenty-fourth franchise in MLS, the highest tier of professional soccer in the nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the owners, management, coaches, players, and rabid fans of Nashville SC upon the team's inaugural season of competition in Major League Soccer, thank them for their ongoing commitment to the success of professional soccer in Music City, and join them in cheering on the team as it vies for its first MLS victory on February 29, 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.