

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the City of Austin's metro area population is 1,915,039 making it the fastest growing metro area (over 1,000,000) and largest city in the US without a tier one professional sports franchise team; and

WHEREAS, the Major League Soccer (MLS) organization is the highest professional soccer league in the US; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin's demographics are extremely favorable to the sport of soccer as its median age is 31.7 and its rich diversity reflects soccer's global image; and

WHEREAS, Central Texas is a hotbed of young soccer talent from the youth club level to the amateur ranks as evidenced by the establishment of the Austin Aztex, and

WHEREAS, eight players from the Austin Aztex have been drafted by MLS teams including three of the first eleven picks of the 2013 MLS Superdraft one of which was the MLS Rookie of the year; and

WHEREAS, the MLS is currently in an expansion phase and as noted by MLS Commissioner Don Garber during the recent State of the League Address, the City of Austin is being viewed as a potential expansion opportunity for the MLS; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Garber also noted that the MLS has been successful with stadiums located in the urban core of their league cities and hopes to locate new facilities in the same manner; and

WHEREAS, a centrally located facility could take full advantage of public transit and other alternative forms of transportation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is committed to creating a vibrant urban core in downtown Austin that will be the heart of the community; **NOW**,

THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

That the City Council directs the City Manager to work with necessary stakeholders including Major League Soccer, the Aztex, neighborhood groups, the University of Texas, and identify other probable stakeholders to (1) identify the feasibility of a Major League Soccer franchise in Austin, and (2) identify potential sites that take into account the traffic impact on surrounding neighborhoods.

ADOPTED: _____, 2014

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk