

RESOLUTION NO. 17-66

A RESOLUTION INDICATING SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS  
TO KEEP THE COLUMBUS CREW SOCCER CLUB IN  
COLUMBUS.

WHEREAS, on October 16, 2017, the investor-operator and chairman of Columbus Crew Soccer Club announced his intention to explore relocation of the franchise to Austin, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Columbus Crew Soccer Club is the first charter member of Major League Soccer, founded in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Columbus is home to the first soccer-specific stadium in the United States, built to provide stability to Major League Soccer at time of uncertainty in the young league's existence, creating a foundation for Major League Soccer to persist through the contraction of franchises in Miami and Tampa Bay in 2002, endangering the life of the league, to grow to its current size of 22 total franchises; and

WHEREAS, the players, coaches and staff have represented the City of Columbus nationally and internationally with high level of skill, determination, confidence and character, earning them the nom de guerre "America's Hardest Working Team," and winning the 2008 MLS Cup; the 2004, 2008 and 2009 Supporters' Shields; and the 2002 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup; and

WHEREAS, Columbus Crew Soccer Club and its charitable arm, Crew SC Foundation have worked to strengthen the Central Ohio community through numerable volunteer hours with programs such as Soccer Aid, fundraisers for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Columbus Reads, Keep Columbus Beautiful, Soccer for Success and the Kirk Urso Memorial Scholarship, in addition to adopting the Linden-McKinley STEM Academy boys varsity team - helping them field a team for the first time in ten years; and

WHEREAS, Columbus Crew Soccer Club has produced an economic impact of \$20 million to \$25 million according to an economic impact study the franchise commissioned in 2011, and has secured high-profile corporate sponsorships in the intervening timeframe with major companies like Mapfre Insurance, Central Ohio's own Barbasol, and major Columbus region employer Honda through its Acura brand; and

WHEREAS, being located in a neighboring City to Delaware, the Columbus Crew provides an opportunity for Delaware families to experience professional soccer; and

