

## MOTION

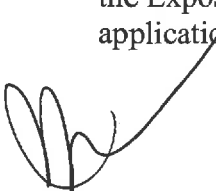
While our region's economy continues to enjoy an economic recovery, South Los Angeles has lagged behind, with higher unemployment and poverty rates than other parts of the Greater Los Angeles region. Communities such as South Los Angeles continue to need significant economic investment that results in good paying, local jobs to its surrounding residents.

Major League Soccer (MLS) has awarded the region a new professional soccer franchise known as the Los Angeles Football Club. The Los Angeles Football Club has spent the last year evaluating location options for a new MLS soccer stadium and can select from locations in either Los Angeles or Orange County to construct its new stadium to meet the MLS desired opening date of 2018, creating significant time pressure for the entitlement process in 2015 so that construction can begin in 2016.

Constructing this professional soccer venue for the City of Los Angeles is an important priority and presents a major economic opportunity to create good jobs and investment in the City, and in the South Los Angeles community. The Los Angeles Football Club has estimated the cost of a state-of-the-art soccer stadium (the Project) with a seating capacity of approximately 22,000 in addition to ancillary development, at upwards of \$250 million, and is expected to create 3,000 construction and permanent jobs, and \$2.5 million in annual revenue to the City.

The Los Angeles Football Club announced it intends to pursue its preferred location for the Project in Exposition Park, to replace the little used Sports Arena. An EIR for such a project at the Sports Arena was certified in 2011 by the Coliseum Commission, and provided for within the existing Commission agreements with the University of Southern California (USC), which has a 99-year lease over the property. Prior to the Los Angeles Football Club's announcement, USC and the Los Angeles Football Club signed an agreement that would allow the Club to move forward with pursuing the development of the site. However, completing all of the approvals for this major endeavor cannot be accomplished without significant review and action by several City agencies, as well as the City Council and Mayor, and cooperation with other stakeholders in Exposition Park including the Coliseum Commission, the County of Los Angeles and the State of California.

In addition to the stadium, the Project would also include a museum, conference, retail and restaurant uses that will directly benefit the overall surrounding community, and Exposition Park. Whereas declining attendance and fewer events at the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena (Sports Arena) have left the existing site underutilized, the Project could also attract new patrons to the City and the South Los Angeles area for MLS-related and other community events, provide new employment opportunities for local residents and increase revenues for area businesses. The Project would encourage more visitors to Exposition Park, and anchor the southern end of the sports and entertainment venues located on Figueroa, which extend to LA Live and Dodger Stadium to the north. The Project, as proposed by the Los Angeles Football Club, is a transformative development and will create thousands of construction and permanent jobs, bring critical investment to Exposition Park, and develop long-needed community serving facilities like restaurants and meeting spaces. It is therefore appropriate for the City to study to what extent this project can generate jobs and revenues for the City above and beyond those currently attributable to the existing Sports Arena. Consistent with City consideration of other projects, where protection is provided to the City's taxpayers and the City's General Fund, the City of Los Angeles should be open to opportunities to encourage the Los Angeles Football Club to permanently commit to the Exposition Park location. Such encouragement must also include the priority processing of necessary applications and studies, provided that the Los Angeles Football Club provides any necessary funds for



applications and staffing costs if required, consistent with City procedures. Each department's assistance to make this a priority, together with necessary coordination among departments, is essential to ensure that the required MLS time frames can be met in Los Angeles for the new franchise to commence operations in 2018.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct each responsible department, including City Planning, Department of Building and Safety, Economic & Workforce Development Department (EWDD), Department of Transportation, and any other departments as needed to work individually and collectively as appropriate to assist the Los Angeles Football Club in consideration of all necessary actions concerning their proposal to replace the existing Sports Arena with a modern, MLS soccer stadium for their new MLS franchise;

I FURTHER MOVE that the appropriate City departments, including City Planning, the Department of Transportation and the City Attorney's Office, coordinate with the Coliseum Commission to determine what assistance the City may be able to provide in connection with expedited project processing requirements, recognizing that the Coliseum Commission has previously prepared an EIR and the City has previously adopted entitlements for the area;

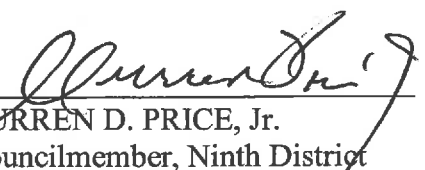
I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the EWDD to work with the Los Angeles Football Club to explore existing federal job incentive and other financing programs for which the Project is eligible to apply, including but not limited to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 108 Loan Guarantee program and New Market Tax Credits, and to assist the Los Angeles Football Club in preparing and submitting any necessary applications;

I FURTHER MOVE that the EWDD obtain any necessary information, working as needed with other City assistance, to review the financial and economic analysis of the Los Angeles Football Club's proposal and its associated impacts;

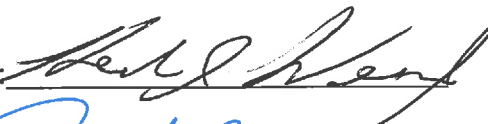
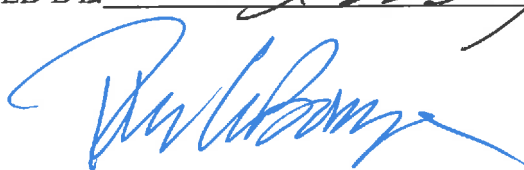
I FURTHER MOVE that in the event customary procedures require funding by the Los Angeles Football Club for application processing, advancement of funds to cover costs of any necessary outside consultants, and/or for reimbursement of City staff expenses in connection with assistance to the Coliseum Commission, that such deposits shall be requested and accepted such that staff resources are available as needed to meet timely project processing requirements; and

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council request that the Los Angeles Football Club submit a project description and environmental documentation required under the California Environmental Quality Act at the earliest possible date to ensure adequate opportunity to review and understand all potential impacts associated with this project.

PRESENTED BY:

  
CURREN D. PRICE, Jr.  
Councilmember, Ninth District

SECONDED BY:

MAY 20 2015