

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6040

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending the Sporting Kansas City professional soccer club on an outstanding 2017 season and for winning their fourth Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup title.

WHEREAS, Sporting Kansas City was founded as a Major League Soccer (MLS) charter team in 1995 by Lamar Hunt and was known then as the Kansas City Wizards; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, the team officially moved to its new home in Wyandotte County, Kansas, at the state-of-the-art Children's Mercy Park and was rebranded from the Kansas City Wizards to Sporting Kansas City; and

WHEREAS, Sporting Kansas City was crowned MLS Cup champions in 2000 and 2013, solidifying over a decade of dominance in MLS; and

WHEREAS, Sporting Kansas City won the 2017 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup title; and

WHEREAS, Sporting Kansas City has won the Open Cup in three of the last six years and is one of only three MLS teams to have four Open Cup titles; and

WHEREAS, Sporting Kansas City won 12 games in the 2017 regular season and won an additional five thrilling games on their way to being crowned the 2017 U.S. Open Cup champions for the first time since 2015; and

WHEREAS, Four of the five games were played in Kansas City, Kansas, at Children's Mercy Park in front of a hometown crowd of more than 18,000 faithful fans in "The Cauldron" and the general stands each night; and

WHEREAS, Sporting Kansas City amassed a remarkable 12 goals during the course of the Open Cup championship; and

WHEREAS, One of the more memorable games occurred on August 9, 2017, when Sporting Kansas City and the San Jose Earthquakes became ensnarled in a penalty shootout after a 1-1 draw. Sporting Kansas City would eventually win the shootout 5-4, thanks in large part to goalkeeper Tim Melia's efforts; and

WHEREAS, In one of the most thrilling games in Sporting Kansas City's history, the team edged out the New York Red Bulls 2-1 in the Open Cup final with a 25<sup>th</sup> minute header from Latif Blessing and a 66<sup>th</sup> minute strike from Daniel Sallio: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:* That the owners, manager, coaches, trainers, other organizational personnel and, most of all, the players and fans of the Sporting Kansas City professional soccer club be congratulated and commended on their outstanding 2017, for winning their fourth Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup title and for bringing tremendous pride to the people of Kansas.

House Resolution No. 6040 was sponsored by Representative Tom Burroughs.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

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*Speaker of the House.*

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*Chief Clerk of the House.*