

House Concurrent Resolution No. 116

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE GREEN.

6772H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

1 **WHEREAS**, the City of St. Louis, St. Louis County, and the state of Missouri support
2 professional sports teams in the state; and

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4 **WHEREAS**, Major League Soccer (MLS) plans to add four expansion teams to the
5 twenty teams currently in the league by 2020 and then an additional four expansion teams
6 thereafter; and

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8 **WHEREAS**, MLS commissioner Don Garber stated that MLS is looking for a stadium
9 site in the St. Louis metropolitan area and is planning the financing for such a stadium; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, soccer has a long history in St. Louis, including successful amateur clubs
12 in the mid Twentieth Century; St. Louis University winning multiple NCAA titles during the
13 1960s; a North American Soccer League team, the St. Louis Stars, from 1968 to 1977; and two
14 Major Indoor Soccer League teams, the St. Louis Steamers from 1979 to 1988 and the St. Louis
15 Storm from 1989 to 1992; and

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17 **WHEREAS**, six of the seventeen players on the famous 1950's United States men's
18 national soccer team, which upset England in a game called "The Miracle Match", were from St.
19 Louis; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, St. Louis offers a large potential fan base; and

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23 **WHEREAS**, over ten percent of St. Louis residents participate in soccer, and that rate
24 is three percent higher than the national average; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, a tax on hotel and motel guests raises approximately eleven million dollars
27 a year, and about one million five hundred dollars of that amount is not committed to other
28 projects; and

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30 **WHEREAS**, a professional soccer stadium costs approximately one hundred million
31 dollars to build; and

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33 **WHEREAS**, a professional soccer stadium costs approximately one-tenth the price to
34 build as a professional football stadium; and

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36 **WHEREAS**, in the past year, many politicians supported a plan to build a new
37 professional football stadium in St. Louis; and

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39 **WHEREAS**, a soccer stadium would create a tourist destination wherever it is located;
40 and

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42 **WHEREAS**, Old Jamestown is a census designated place on the northern side of the St.
43 Louis metropolitan area; and

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45 **WHEREAS**, the Old Jamestown Mall closed in July 2014 and is now vacant commercial
46 property; and

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48 **WHEREAS**, the Old Jamestown Mall is located near the intersection of highways 67 and
49 367, which provide direct access to the heart of St. Louis County and the City of St. Louis,
50 respectively; and

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52 **WHEREAS**, the Old Jamestown Mall is a convenient destination for Illinois residents
53 in Alton and Granite City; and

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55 **WHEREAS**, recent efforts to revitalize northern St. Louis include the federal designation
56 as a Promise Zone and state efforts to relocate the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency; and

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58 **WHEREAS**, St. Louis County Councilman Mike O'Mara played professional soccer for
59 the St. Louis Steamers and is member of the St. Louis Soccer Hall of Fame; and

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61 **WHEREAS**, Councilman O'Mara was successful in his efforts to build a fourteen
62 million dollar soccer complex for traveling youth soccer teams located at the Creve Coeur Lake;
63 and

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65 **WHEREAS**, the Old Jamestown Mall is located in Councilman O'Mara's district; and

66 **WHEREAS**, other sites suggested for a professional soccer stadium in St. Louis are
67 constricted by neighboring buildings and structures in the crowded downtown district; and
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69 **WHEREAS**, the Old Jamestown Mall has the space for a large soccer facility or
70 complex, including space for parking; and
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72 **WHEREAS**, St. Louis has a professional hockey team and professional baseball team
73 located in its downtown district; and
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75 **WHEREAS**, the MLS season overlaps with the National Hockey League season and the
76 Major League baseball season; and
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78 **WHEREAS**, the streets and public transportation in the downtown district are
79 overcrowded if just one professional team has a game; and
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81 **WHEREAS**, a professional soccer stadium at the Old Jamestown Mall would not
82 congest the downtown district but would still be easily accessible to the residents of the City of
83 St. Louis and St. Louis County; and
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85 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
86 Representatives of the Ninety-eighth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
87 concurring therein, hereby encourage and support a MLS soccer expansion team in St. Louis
88 with its stadium located at the Old Jamestown Mall; and
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90 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
91 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for MLS
92 commissioner Don Garber, Governor Jay Nixon, St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay, St. Louis County
93 Executive Steve Stenger, and St. Louis Councilman Mike O'Mara.

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