

# METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY



MEGAN BARRY  
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
METROPOLITAN COURTHOUSE  
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January 24, 2017

Mr. Don Garber  
Commissioner  
Major League Soccer  
420 Fifth Avenue, Seventh Floor  
New York, NY 10018

Dear Commissioner Garber:

On behalf of the citizens of Nashville, I fully support our bid to bring Major League Soccer to Music City.

Nashville is a city on the move. Our unemployment rate stands at 3.5% and only two other large metros have seen faster GDP and wage growth over the last five years. Nashville has become a top destination for young professionals, adding 100 new residents per day, and our community is steadily growing more diverse, with one out of eight people living within our City limits born outside of the United States.

Music City is passionate about the beautiful game. We will soon launch the City's USL soccer club, Nashville SC, and more than 40,000 people attended the last two men's matches at Nissan Stadium, including the largest crowd to see a USMNT friendly not played against Mexico since the 2014 World Cup. We are on a quest to become a world-class soccer City, and our own MLS club is key to this goal.

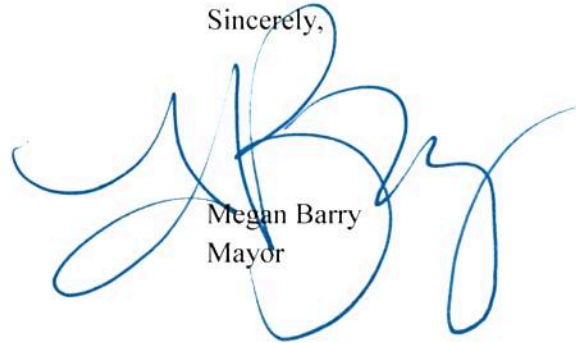
I am aware that a new MLS-caliber stadium is critical to the success of our new club. To that end, I am committed to working with the Nashville MLS bid team and other stakeholders to develop a compelling private-public partnership to build and finance such a stadium. We have identified a preferred site at the Fairgrounds Nashville, a rapidly growing neighborhood near downtown, and I am highly confident in our ability to deliver progress quickly, particularly given our successful track record of City-led projects, including First Tennessee Park and the Music City Center.

Finally, I stand ready to support John Ingram as the leader of the new club's ownership group. John's track record as a business leader and philanthropist speaks for itself, and few in our community can rival his ability to serve as an ambassador and advocate for our community.

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I greatly appreciate your consideration and I cannot overstate my enthusiasm for this effort. I look forward to working with you and your team in the months and years ahead to realize our goal of bringing MLS to Music City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Megan Barry', is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Megan Barry  
Mayor