

## SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL Snohomish County, Washington

## **RESOLUTION NO. 24-012**

## A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO BRING A USL LEAGUE TWO SOCCER CLUB TO SNOHOMISH COUNTY

*WHEREAS, the Snohomish County Football Club hopes to establish a United Soccer League Two (USL 2) Soccer club in Snohomish County; and* 

**WHEREAS,** soccer is very popular in Snohomish County and promotes health and wellness by keeping youth and young adults physically active and engaged in a positive extracurricular activity; and

WHEREAS, Snohomish County is home to several competitive youth soccer organizations which provide opportunities for youth to grow both on and off the field, including the Irish Soccer Club, Lake Stevens Youth Soccer Club, Pilchuck Soccer Alliance, Sky River Soccer Club, Snohomish United, Sound football Club and Washington Rush; and

**WHEREAS,** after high school, there are few competitive organized soccer clubs that exist at a higher level, unless athletes play in college, where they incur additional costs to attend and face limited roster space; and

WHEREAS, without this opportunity, many athletes either quit playing soccer after high school or youth club soccer, or they must travel outside of Snohomish County to play competitively; and

WHEREAS, other recently established USL 2 clubs include Ballard FC, FC Olympia, West Seattle Junction, Tacoma Stars and Midlakes FC; and

WHEREAS, there is a large pool of local talent within Snohomish County who could benefit from participating in a USL 2; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Snohomish County Football Club and Dorian Lair (the club's President and Chairman) is to create a competitive landscape in Snohomish County by organizing various components of soccer, from youth to semi pro, ultimately with a long-term vision of a professional team with its own stadium here in Snohomish County, as well as hosting camps and clinics locally, with the support of Snohomish County and local community leaders; and

**WHEREAS,** the Snohomish County Football Club is committed to serving the community. Examples include working closely with the Edmonds School District Foundation, participating in the summer meals program, and hosting summer soccer tournaments. The Snohomish County Football Club also partnered with the City of Lynnwood to host free summer soccer clinics for kids; and

**WHEREAS,** having USL 2 in Snohomish County could be the go-to event, drawing tourism and generating businesses centered around semi pro soccer events, and bringing communities together into one stadium with 2,000-plus fans;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Snohomish County Council does hereby support efforts to bring a USL 2 soccer club to Snohomish County.

APPROVED this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024.

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Council Chair

Sam Low Councilmember

Nate Nehring ouncil Vice-Chair

**Megan Dunn** Councilmember

ATTEST.

*Elena Lao, CMC Deputy Clerk of the Council* 

Strom Peterson Councilmember