



Memorandum

To: Council President Debora Juarez
From: Deputy Mayor Greg Wong
Date: July 20, 2023
Re: FIFA World Cup Update and LOC Mutual Support and Collaboration Agreement Summary

The purpose of this memorandum is to summarize the Mutual Support and Collaboration Agreement (“LOC Agreement”) that would be entered into by and between the City of Seattle (the “City”) and the Seattle International Soccer Local Organizing Committee (“LOC”).

Background

In 2018, the City entered into an agreement with the United States Soccer Federation (“USSF”) and Fédération Internationale de Football Association (“FIFA”) to qualify the City for the opportunity to become a host city in the 2026 FIFA World Cup (the “Host City Agreement”). At the time the World Cup bid was submitted, the understanding was that the City would serve as the Host City, but the responsibility for fundraising and putting on World Cup-related events as required by the Host City Agreement would reside with an external partner. This arrangement is standard for FIFA World Cups. Accordingly, the Host City Agreement subsequently was amended through an Addendum (the “Addendum”) with the USSF, FIFA, and First and Goal, Inc. that required formation of the LOC to perform the duties under the Host City Agreement, and a separate agreement (the “Joinder”) with the LOC so that both entities became parties under the Host City Agreement. The final legal agreement necessary to effectuate the FIFA World Cup hosting structure is one identifying the Host City Agreement obligations that will be the LOC’s responsibility.

We have drafted a bill that would authorize the Mayor to execute the LOC Agreement to define each party’s role, responsibilities, obligations, and allocation of liability with respect to hosting the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

LOC Agreement

The Agreement is divided into two primary sections: 1) the Cooperation and Obligations of the Parties, and 2) Indemnification.

1. Cooperation and Obligations

This section outlines the obligations of both the City and the LOC in carrying out the obligations and duties outlined in the Host City Agreement, Addendum, and Joinder agreements.

a. LOC’s Obligations

The Agreement would commit the LOC to the following responsibilities under the Host City Agreement, Addendum, and Joinder agreements:

- Facilitate, manage, and oversee hosting and staging games in Seattle in the 2026 FIFA World Cup;



- Provide regular communications to the City, FIFA, and the USSF;
- Secure necessary funding;
- Pay all costs related to the 2026 FIFA World Cup, including reimbursement for the services provided by the City;
- Coordinate between various public and private sector stakeholders;
- Provide regular reports to the City;
- Hire personnel;
- Lead on marketing and promotion; and
- File all necessary permit applications and conform with existing code requirements.

b. City's Obligations

The City would have the following responsibilities under the Host City Agreement, Addendum, and Joinder agreements:

- Provide public services by agreement (e.g., public safety resources), that costs of which will be reimbursed to City by the LOC; and
- Support the LOC in efforts to seek permits or other regulatory action; however, the City would in no way offer preferential treatment in said efforts.

2. *Indemnification*

The LOC would agree to indemnify the City against any costs or claims related to the LOC's activities and obligations. This indemnification would include, but not be limited to, any claims for personal injury, property damage, or other damages arising out of or in connection with the LOC's operations. A legal mechanism would also be created within the Agreement for the City to provide notice to the LOC in the case of claim or loss.

Conclusion

As requested, the LOC and MO will present at your August 3, 2023 committee meeting to update the Council on FIFA World Cup planning and this next step in the process. We will transmit a draft copy of a bill by July 19, 2023, and anticipate sending a formal version through Legistar the week of July 24, 2023, asking Council to provide the Executive the authority to enter into the LOC Agreement. We appreciate your ongoing stewardship of this topic, and we look forward to an opportunity to address any questions or concerns you may have.