

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Be Adopted
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Atkinson, Beyer, Burdick, Ferrioli, Rosenbaum
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Erin Seiler, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	6/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Welcomes professional soccer team Portland Timbers.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- . History of soccer in Portland
- . Rivalry with Major League Soccer team Seattle Sounders
- . Success of Timbers since beginning of the season

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Professional soccer first came to Portland in 1975 with the formation of the Portland Timbers, as an expansion club in the original North American Soccer League (NASL). The club's inaugural NASL season featured home crowds of 20,000 fans and a place in the 1975 Soccer Bowl, the NASL title game. The success of that first season generated a highly supportive fan base which led to Portland earning the nickname "Soccer City USA." The original Timbers produced three playoff seasons (1975, 1978 and 1981).

In 1989 and 1990, the Timbers returned to Portland for just two seasons as part of the Western Soccer League. In 2001, the Timbers returned to Portland as a member of United Soccer Leagues (USL). During the 10 seasons as a member of USL, the Timbers posted eight winning seasons and advanced to the playoffs seven times. The Timbers captured the USL First Division Commissioner's Cup as the regular-season champion in 2004 and 2009. Also in 2009, the Timbers assembled a 24-game unbeaten streak, one of the longest unbeaten streaks in U.S. soccer history. Starting with the 2011 season, the Portland Timbers have joined major league soccer, making a total of eighteen teams.

The Portland nickname "Timbers" embraces the logging industry, Oregon's heritage. The team's mascot is authentic lumberman "Timber Joey," and a tradition, following every Timbers goal, is the sawing of a slab off a log. Matches are played in the City of Portland's renovated Jeld-Wen Field, formerly PGE Park, formerly Civic Stadium. Seating capacity for soccer is approximately 20,000. The Timbers' April 14 home debut opponent was the Chicago Fire.