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THE COUNCIL
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VINCENT J. GENTILE
COUNCIL MEMBER, 43RD DISTRICT
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Sunil K. Gulati
President
United States Soccer Federation
1801 S. Prairie Avenue
Chicago, IL 60616

Dear Mr. Gulati,

I write to ask your reconsideration of the recent decision by the United States Soccer Federation to deny the New York Cosmos Football Club and the North American Soccer League professional sanctioning.

Soccer has expanded tremendously in the United States over the past decades and to limit its growth professionally is to hinder its progression locally. I have seen more interest than ever in youth soccer leagues across my Brooklyn community. Since moving to Coney Island, the Cosmos have partnered with local youth soccer clubs on many events to spearhead the grassroots growth of the sport. They even tour around with the players giving the younger generation something tangible to aspire towards.

In addition to the NASL's presence in the community with children, they also provide economic stimulation by virtue of hiring local employees, promoting small businesses, and improving the Brooklyn community. The impact of the USSF's decision will send shockwaves throughout the entire youth and amateur soccer system which we have established here in Coney Island.

Brooklynites know all too well what it's like to lose a professional sports franchise and nobody wants to re-live those same burdens. The foundation for a Division 2 level professional soccer team is well established. We have the stadium, the fan base, and the local support. Now all we need is for the New York Cosmos Football Club and the entire North American Soccer League to receive professional sanctioning. Accordingly, I again strongly urge you to reconsider your decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vincent J. Gentile".

Vincent J. Gentile
Councilmember, 43rd District