

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2020-4658, by Representative MacEwen

1 WHEREAS, Seattle's first professional ice hockey club began play
2 in 1915 as one of four teams in the Pacific Coast Hockey Association,
3 a league founded in British Columbia in 1912; and

4 WHEREAS, The club was named the Metropolitans, after the company
5 that constructed the original Seattle Arena, the indoor ice rink that
6 would be the team's home; and

7 WHEREAS, The Metropolitans became league champions in just their
8 second season, which entitled them to play for hockey's ultimate
9 trophy, the Stanley Cup, in 1917; and

10 WHEREAS, By besting the champion of the National Hockey
11 Association, the Montreal Canadiens, the Seattle Metropolitans became
12 the first United States team to capture the Stanley Cup; and

13 WHEREAS, The Metropolitans continued to affirm Seattle's place in
14 hockey history by vying again for the Stanley Cup in 1919 and 1920,
15 before disbanding after the 1923-24 season; and

16 WHEREAS, A succession of Seattle hockey teams, from the Eskimos,
17 Sea Hawks, Olympics, Ironmen, and Stars, to the Bombers, Americans,
18 Totems, Breakers, and Thunderbirds, ensured that professional and
19 high-level amateur hockey was rarely missing from Seattle in the
20 ensuing decades; and

21 WHEREAS, In 2017, a century after the Seattle Metropolitans
22 brought the Stanley Cup to America for the first time, the prospect

1 of bringing a National Hockey League franchise to Seattle began to
2 show renewed promise; and

3 WHEREAS, In early 2018 a prospective ownership group in Seattle
4 made application for a National Hockey League expansion team, and on
5 March 1, 2018, in twelve minutes the team received more than 10,000
6 deposits for season tickets with 32,000 deposits received in the
7 first twenty-four hours proving that Seattle, Washington State, and
8 fans around the world support an expansion franchise in Seattle; and

9 WHEREAS, Following the excellent support shown by NHL Seattle's
10 fans, on December 4, 2018, the National Hockey League approved a
11 Seattle expansion franchise as its thirty-second team; and

12 WHEREAS, With the rebuilding of the team's future home at the
13 historic Seattle Center Arena under way, and the groundbreaking for a
14 practice facility, team headquarters, and Seattle's first three
15 sheets of ice in north Seattle's Northgate close at hand, the
16 infrastructure to support the new team will continue to come together
17 in 2020; and

18 WHEREAS, NHL Seattle hired Hockey Hall of Fame inductee Ron
19 Francis as its first General Manager; and

20 WHEREAS, NHL Seattle further made history by hiring Hockey Hall
21 of Fame inductee Cammi Granato to be one of its professional scouts,
22 making her the first female scout in the history of the NHL; and

23 WHEREAS, A century since a professional Seattle hockey club last
24 competed for the Stanley Cup, fans of the sport are eagerly awaiting
25 the announcement of the new team's name, the selection of additional
26 staff, and the drafting of players ahead of the first drop of the
27 puck in 2021;

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House
29 of Representatives acknowledge and celebrate the impending arrival of
30 Seattle's new hockey team, and the dawning of a new chapter in
31 Seattle professional sports that is sure to bring even more
32 attention, entertainment opportunity, and economic activity to the
33 state of Washington; and

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
35 immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of
36 Representatives to Seattle Hockey Partners, also known as NHL
37 Seattle.

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