

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 594

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the Austin Aztex Football Club as it begins the 2009 season; and

WHEREAS, The only professional soccer club in Austin, and the city's preeminent professional sports franchise, the Aztex were founded in 2008 by Phil Rawlins, who also has an ownership interest in the Stoke City Football Club of the English Premier League, one of the foremost soccer leagues in the world; and

WHEREAS, A member of the United Soccer Leagues First Division, the Aztex play an international schedule that includes teams from Montreal, Vancouver, and Puerto Rico as well as teams from across the United States; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rawlins was named Top Sports Executive of the Year by the *Austin Chronicle* in 2008, and head coach Adrian Heath has 18 years of experience as a premier league player in England and Spain and 12 years of experience as a coach; and

WHEREAS, The Aztex Under-23 team, playing in its inaugural season in the United Soccer Leagues Premier Development League in 2008, won the Mid-South Division title with a record of 10-5-1; head coach Wolfgang Suhnholz was named Coach of the Year, Miguel Gallardo was named Goalkeeper of the Year, and Beto Papandrea was named Defender of the Year, giving the Aztex three of the five awards in the 67-team league; and

WHEREAS, The Austin Aztex Football Club has demonstrated great talent, discipline, and teamwork throughout the course of its inaugural season and looks forward to the future with confidence and enthusiasm; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, hereby commend the Austin Aztex Football Club for providing Austin area fans with a superior level of sports competition and extend best wishes to the club for continued success in the seasons ahead; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the team as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Watson

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 7, 2009.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate