

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2

By Powell

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Hany Mukhtar of Nashville SC on winning the 2022 Landon Donovan MLS Most Valuable Player Award.

WHEREAS, it was with immense pride that the members of this General Assembly learned that Hany Mukhtar of Nashville SC was named the winner of the 2022 Landon Donovan Major League Soccer (MLS) Most Valuable Player Award; and

WHEREAS, the Landon Donovan MLS Most Valuable Player Award has been presented since 1996 to the individual determined by a poll of players, club technical staff, and the media to be the most valuable to his club; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mukhtar is the first player from any Nashville professional sports franchise to win a league MVP award since 2003, when Tennessee Titans quarterback Steve McNair was named NFL co-MVP along with Peyton Manning; and

WHEREAS, a native of Berlin, Germany, Hany Mukhtar began playing soccer at an early age and became Nashville SC's first designated-player signing in August 2019; he played for IF Brøndby in Denmark before joining Nashville for his first season in 2020; and

WHEREAS, since his arrival in Tennessee, Mr. Mukhtar has sought to give back to the Nashville community through a number of endeavors, including the Mukhtar Soccer Academy, which gives area children the opportunity to train with Mr. Mukhtar and soccer coaches and provides scholarships to kids from low-income families to cover their participation costs; and

WHEREAS, proving himself to be the premier player on the MLS pitch in 2022, Hany Mukhtar enjoyed a tremendous season, leading MLS with thirty-four goal contributions (twenty-three goals and eleven assists), which was tied for the fifth most in a single season in MLS history as he also claimed the MLS Golden Boot; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mukhtar is the first German-born player and the first in Nashville SC history to be named Landon Donovan MLS MVP and the fourth player in the last decade to win it and the MLS Golden Boot in the same season; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mukhtar scored or assisted on an incredible 65.4 percent of Nashville SC's goals in 2022, which was the most by a single player in MLS this season. The midfielder's sensational season helped Nashville finish fifth in the Western Conference and earn a berth in the Audi 2022 MLS Cup Playoffs; and

WHEREAS, the playmaker had a historic month of August, becoming just the fourth player in MLS history to total at least twelve goal contributions (eight goals, four assists) in a single calendar month; and

WHEREAS, with Nashville SC fighting for a playoff spot down the stretch of the season, Mr. Mukhtar recorded ten combined goals and assists as part of Nashville's club-record four-game winning streak from August 21 to September 3; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Hany Mukhtar has earned a plethora of accolades since arriving to MLS in 2020, including one MLS Best XI selection (2021), one MLS Player of the Month award (August 2022), and six MLS Player of the Week honors; and

WHEREAS, it is highly appropriate that the members of this General Assembly specially recognize and commend this esteemed gentleman on his extraordinary success; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Hany Mukhtar on winning the 2022 Landon Donovan MLS Most Valuable Player Award and wish him much continued success in all his endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.