

them.

Baltimore's reputation as a sports town with a rich, vibrant, and diverse history makes this a no-brainer. M&T Bank Stadium is already well-regarded as one of the top sports facilities in the country, and it has already played host to international soccer friendlies with much success. Further, the stadium's central location downtown makes it easily accessible from Thurgood Marshall Airport, Penn Station, and several highways as well as accessible to scores of hotels and restaurants, attractions like the Inner Harbor and Fort McHenry, and many of the diverse neighborhoods that make Baltimore "Charm City."

The vision statement for the official effort to bring the World Cup to Baltimore perhaps sums it up best:

The City of Baltimore and State of Maryland represent the progress of uniting our nation's past with the global environment of the present and future. Our destination's diverse cultural history has made it a global city for centuries, uniting people of ethnic backgrounds from around the world. Baltimore-Maryland will continue to lead the effort to welcome the world to America. We will lead the effort to unite citizens, cultures, commerce, medicine, education, environment, religion and sport to create a better future for our community, the world and its people.

Baltimore is ready for its World Cup moment. Let's make it happen.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of Baltimore, That the Council expresses its unequivocal support for Baltimore's bid to be a World Cup Host City in 2026.

And be it further resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Baltimore-Maryland 2026 World Cup Host Committee, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.