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Anthony Precourt
Precourt Sports Ventures
50 West Broad Street, Suite 1330
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Mr. Precourt:

The Columbus Crew is a valued part of the central Ohio community, and I join with those asking you to keep the Crew in Columbus. However, in light of continued accounts that you are "exploring ... potentially relocating the Club to the city of Austin, Texas," I write to reiterate your obligations under Ohio law.

In 1996, following the relocation of the Cleveland Browns to Baltimore, the General Assembly enacted Ohio Revised Code §9.67. That statute states:

No owner of a professional sports team that uses a tax-supported facility for most of its home games and receives financial assistance from the state or a political subdivision thereof shall cease playing most of its home games at the facility and begin playing most of its home games elsewhere unless the owner either:

(A) Enters into an agreement with the political subdivision permitting the team to play most of its home games elsewhere;

(B) Gives the political subdivision in which the facility is located not less than six months' advance notice of the owner's intention to cease playing most of its home games at the facility and, during the six months after such notice, gives the political subdivision or any individual or group of individuals who reside in the area the opportunity to purchase the team.

The facts reflect that this law applies to the Crew, and my office will enforce its provisions if and as necessary.

Our hope is that Precourt Sports Ventures will reaffirm a commitment to playing its home games in Columbus. Should you decide otherwise, I remind you that you will need to follow the terms of R.C. §9.67 and that my office is prepared to take the necessary legal action under this law to protect the interests of the State of Ohio.

Very respectfully yours,

Mike DeWine
Ohio Attorney General