

World Cup Proclamation

Whereas, twenty years ago this summer, Central Florida and the Florida Citrus Bowl were chosen as one of nine venue cities to host the World Cup, the world's largest sporting event, during the United States' first time hosting the tournament; and

Whereas, the bid effort to host the 1994 World Cup effort started in 1988 and continued until March 1992, with Orlando starting the process as one of 26 cities bidding to host; and

Whereas, Orlando was chosen as the only venue city in the southeast, beating out Miami, Tampa, Atlanta and Charlotte to host five matches at the Citrus Bowl from June 19 to July 4, 1994; and

Whereas, more than \$208 million in economic impact flowed to our region before and during the World Cup matches, the largest single sporting event ever hosted by our community; and

Whereas, more than 300,000 spectators attended the five matches at the Citrus Bowl with spirited play by teams from the Netherlands, Ireland, Belgium, Morocco and Mexico. During the entire course of the World Cup, a cumulative audience of more than 32 billion worldwide watched the games on TV; and

Whereas, over 4,000 volunteers signed on to ensure we put our best foot forward, and also learned about the excitement of soccer as well as other cultures and nations; and

Whereas; during the course of the World Cup in Orlando, celebrations at Church Street Station, our popular Downtown venue, ran out of beer, putting our international guests at risk of dehydration (a phenomenon we hope will never happen again); and

Whereas, the Atlanta Journal Constitution proclaimed Orlando, the "World Cup Best venue" and the Wall Street Journal declared, "The UN should send observers to see how it's done,"

NOW, THEREFORE, I BUDDY DYER, Mayor of the City of Orlando, hereby do proclaim June 19-July 4, 2014 as

World Cup Orlando 20th Anniversary Celebration

in the City of Orlando in honor of one of our most cherished and remembered community successes.