



WHEREAS, AU Pro Basketball is a premiere, athlete-driven women's professional basketball league in the United States featuring 40 of the best women's professional basketball players in the world playing full-court, five-on-five basketball; and

WHEREAS, the AU Pro Basketball season takes place in one location for four to five weeks of world-class competition, providing athletes with more opportunities to play professionally in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the WNBA and its players are always a big part of the AU Pro Basketball season. Recently, 18 players in the 40-person league finished last season on a WNBA roster and 11 other players had experience in the WNBA; and

WHEREAS, ever since the inception of AU Pro Basketball in 2022, there has been growth in the number of WNBA players competing in its four-week league, with that number increasing to 72.5% in 2024; and

WHEREAS, with fewer options for professional women basketball athletes to play overseas because of unrest, and the WNBA's prioritization rule requiring players to be in training camp or be prohibited from playing in the upcoming season, AU Pro Basketball has become an increasingly attractive option; and

WHEREAS, in January 2025, Music City will host AU Pro Basketball's season at Nashville Municipal Auditorium, and Nashville is thrilled and proud to welcome back professional women's basketball after a long absence; and

WHEREAS, the last time Music City hosted women's professional basketball was in 1998 with the Nashville Noise, a member of the American Basketball League (ABL); and

WHEREAS, the WNBA has considered adding a team in Music City, and hosting AU Pro Basketball's upcoming season at Nashville Municipal Auditorium provides the city with the opportunity to showcase high caliber professional women's basketball through AU's innovative program; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the Metropolitan Council and the Metropolitan Council's Women's Caucus recognizes and celebrates this significant event, and expresses their support for professional women's basketball.

NOW, THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. The Metropolitan County Council hereby goes on record as expressing their support of the January 2025 Athletes Unlimited Pro Basketball season at Nashville Municipal Auditorium.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.