

**NEW ITEM**  
**Mecklenburg Board of Commissioners**  
**Action Item**  
**October 4, 2011**

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**Subject:**                    **Joint Proclamation – Carolina Lightnin’ Day**

**ACTION:**                    **Adopt a joint proclamation designating October 15, 2011 as Carolina Lightnin’ 1981 ASL Championship 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Day in Charlotte/Mecklenburg County.**

**Contact:**                    **Chairman Jennifer Roberts**

**Presentation:**            **Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No   X**

**BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION:** On October 15, 2011, the owners, coaches, staff and players of the Carolina Lightnin’ are holding a reunion to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Carolina Lightnin’s 1981 American Soccer League Championship that was won on September 18, 1981 at Charlotte American Legion Memorial Stadium in front of 20,163 fans. The reunion will be held from 1 – 4 pm at Memorial Stadium and will include a Fan Fest that is open and free to the public. In addition to meeting or reconnecting with former Lightnin’ Head Coach Rodney Marsh and most of the 1981 ASL Championship team players, the Fan Fest will include soccer contests and prizes, including attempts to kick a soccer ball in the sunroof of a Land Rover.

The City of Charlotte owned and operated Memorial Stadium during the time that it served as the Carolina Lightnin’s home field from 1981 – 1983. As a result of functional consolidation of the City and County park and recreation departments, Mecklenburg County now owns and operates Memorial Stadium and the County Park and Recreation Department is a sponsor of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion of the Carolina Lightnin’, which also serves to highlight the history of Memorial Stadium.

**PROCUREMENT BACKGROUND:** N/A

**POLICY IMPACT:** N/A

**FISCAL IMPACT:** N/A

	Current Fiscal Year Impact	% Funding	Next Fiscal Year Impact	% Funding	New Positions FT    PT
Federal State Other County Capital Project TOTAL					

**MUST BE COMPLETED IF FUNDING IS INVOLVED**

**ATTACHMENT(S):** Joint Proclamation

**Proclamation  
City of Charlotte/Mecklenburg County**

**WHEREAS**, on December 3, 1979 the American Soccer League (ASL) awarded a franchise in Charlotte, North Carolina to Charlotte businessman Bob Benson and a group of investors, and on September 14, 1980 Charlotte's American Soccer League franchise was named Carolina Lightnin' and named soccer legend Rodney Marsh as head coach, and on May 14, 1981 the Carolina Lightnin' played its first regular season game at Charlotte American Legion Memorial Stadium, which served as the Lightnin's home field; and

**WHEREAS**, in July 1981 Charlotte resident and former Myers Park High School and Belmont Abbey graduate Tony Suarez was named to the 1981 ASL All-Star team, along with Carolina Lightnin' teammates Scott Manning, Don Tobin, Curtis Leeper, Mal Roche and Santiago Formoso, and was named 1981 ALS All-Star Game Most Valuable Player; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 2, 1981, the Carolina Lightnin' finished the 1981 ASL season as the top team in its division, becoming the 1981 Freedom Division Champions and advanced to the 1981 ASL Championship Game held in Charlotte, NC; and , on September 18, 1981, won the 1981 American Soccer League Championship by defeating the New York United 2-1 in double-overtime before 20,163 fans in Charlotte American Legion Memorial Stadium, the largest one-game attendance in the history of the ASL, and for many years to come, the largest one-game attendance for a professional team sport in Charlotte and North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 15, 2011, the Carolina Lightnin' owners, staff, coaches and players from the 1981 Championship team are holding a reunion from 1 – 4 p.m. in Charlotte American Legion Memorial Stadium to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Carolina Lightnin's 1981 ASL Championship, the only professional major league team sports championship in Charlotte's history;

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE**, Anthony R. Foxx, Mayor of the City of Charlotte, and Jennifer Roberts, Chairman of the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners, hereby proclaim Saturday, October 15, 2011 as

**“CAROLINA LIGHTNIN' 1981 ASL CHAMPIONSHIP 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
REUNION DAY”**

in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County and urge all residents to recognize and participate in its observance.

**WITNESS OUR HANDS** and the official Seals of the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

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Anthony R. Foxx, Mayor  
City of Charlotte

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Jennifer Roberts, Chairman  
Mecklenburg Board of County  
Commissioners