



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PHILADELPHIA SOCCER 2026 ANNOUNCES DAVID L. COHEN WILL
TRANSITION THE ROLE OF BID CHAIR TO DANIEL J. HILFERTY**

Nominated by President Biden to serve as the United States Ambassador to Canada, Cohen will officially depart the role of Bid Chair upon confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

PHILADELPHIA (September 13, 2021) – Philadelphia Soccer 2026, the City’s official FIFA World Cup 2026™ bid committee, announced that David L. Cohen, Senior Advisor to the CEO of Comcast Corporation and Bid Chair since May 2019, will transition this role to Daniel J. Hilferty, the recently retired President and CEO of Independence Health Group. This leadership transition is driven by President Joseph R. Biden’s nomination of Cohen as United States Ambassador to Canada in July, which will require Cohen to resign as Bid Chair upon confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

“With speculation around my possible nomination, Philadelphia Soccer 2026, like any responsible organization, had begun a thoughtful process around succession planning several months ago,” said Cohen. “Ensuring continuity and sustaining the momentum of Philadelphia’s bid effort were my highest priorities in considering a successor. Working with Mayor Kenney, we agreed that Dan Hilferty was the natural – and best – choice to serve as Philadelphia Soccer 2026’s next Bid Chair. As the process moves forward, I have full confidence in Dan, our strong, experienced team, and our committed partners to successfully see this important civic effort through to a winning conclusion.”

Hilferty is a highly respected leader within Philadelphia’s business community and nationally. Beyond his leadership role at Independence Health Group, where he was a driving force in leading the transformation of health care in Philadelphia for more than a decade, Hilferty served as the Chair of the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia from 2018-2020 and has helped lead numerous civic efforts, notably serving as Finance Chair for DNC2016 and as a Co-Chair of the Executive Leadership Cabinet for the 2015 World Meeting of Families and Papal Visit. At the national level, Hilferty also served as Chairman of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association of America (BCBSA) from 2015-2017.

“I am honored to step into this role for Philadelphia and I am grateful to David and the Mayor for asking me to serve,” said Hilferty. “I have been part of major events in the City throughout my career, including political conventions and a Papal Visit, but FIFA World Cup™ is special. It brings the world together in equal parts competition and celebration unlike any other event. To welcome the ‘beautiful game’ to Philadelphia is a once-in-a-generation opportunity, and as I have begun engaging in this effort with the team, it is clear how well-positioned Philadelphia Soccer 2026 is for success. I look forward to working closely with David until his formal confirmation and I am excited to help bring this important regional victory home.”

Mayor Jim Kenney also commented, “First, I want to thank David Cohen for being the best ambassador this City has ever had. For more than 30 years, Philadelphia has benefited from David’s leadership in City Hall, the business community, and our shared civic life. It is clear why President Biden would ask him to serve in such an important role and there is no question that David will represent our nation well and with great pride. Second, Dan Hilferty is the absolute right choice for this role. At every turn in his career, Dan has passionately stepped up to champion this City, ensuring Philadelphia takes its rightful place on the national and international stages. He will be a terrific successor to David as Chair, and I look forward to winning this bid together.”

The announcement of this planned leadership transition occurs just days ahead of the formal Site Visit by FIFA and U.S. Soccer on Wednesday, September 22. This allows both Cohen and Hilferty to participate in the critical meetings that impact Host City selection, which is expected in early 2022.

Cohen shared that these leadership transition plans have been communicated to key decision-makers for FIFA World Cup 2026™. In his recent conversations with FIFA and U.S. Soccer, Cohen emphasized the strength and depth of the entire Philadelphia Soccer 2026 team, which will remain in place, saying, “Both organizations could not be more supportive of our proactive approach to governance or more welcoming of Dan.”

For additional information regarding Philadelphia’s bid for FIFA World Cup 2026™, please visit: www.philadelphia2026.com.

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About Philadelphia Soccer 2026

Philadelphia Soccer 2026 is Philadelphia’s civic committee overseeing the region’s bid to host the FIFA World Cup 2026™. Established in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, it is governed by a five-person Board of Directors, which includes representatives from the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau (the sponsoring entity of the bid) and the City of Philadelphia.