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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**City Soccer Club (City SC) Announce Partnership with Real Salt Lake (RSL) and Utah Royals FC (URFC) Professional Soccer Teams**

Carlsbad, CA based youth soccer club City SC and Real Salt Lake/Utah Royals FC have announced an official partnership naming City SC as the exclusive San Diego partner of the Utah based Major League Soccer (MLS) and National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) teams.

"Having a professional pathway in place for our elite players is something that we have always been very passionate about," said City SC Technical Director, Steve Cowell. "The interaction with RSL/URFC will provide our players and coaches with access to top level resources and tangible MLS/NWSL opportunities for our players to work towards."

In pursuing a professional pathway, selecting an organization that offered opportunities for both male and female players was a top priority for City SC, who is one of three US Soccer Development Academy Programs in the San Diego region.

"We are very proud to represent RSL/URFC and to work alongside them to help discover those players who have the drive it takes to play at the very top," said Michael Duggan, City SC Director of Operations. "We want to be innovative in the way we educate our coaches and the way we develop players. The partnership will allow us to help more players achieve their dreams."

RSL/URFC Owner Dell Loy Hansen visited Carlsbad this week to officially announce the partnership.

"Being part of the City Soccer Club and having them join the Real Academy training program is going to be significant for both of us," said Hansen. "We thank City SC for understanding our mutual interest and for growing together with us. It's going to be a great relationship."

Mr. Hansen and key members of RSL/URFC management and academy staff took advantage of the opportunity to observe the City SC Girls and Boys Academy teams at training, marking

the first of many future opportunities City SC's youth players will have to showcase their abilities in front of MLS/NWSL talent scouts.

"We already have one City SC player signed to the Academy for next year and we expect many more in the future," Hansen added.

When it comes to developing youth players RSL ranks second in the MLS having signed 21 Academy products to the first team since 2011. Their current first team roster includes 12 RSL Academy products, demonstrating their commitment to developing homegrown talent.

"As we move into the new era as City SC having a professional pathway in place for our boys was a top priority," said Glenn Malone, City SC Boys Director of Coaching. "Everything that RSL represents is what we strive to instill in our players. When the opportunity came knocking to partner with a professional organization that shares our values of developing youth players, the motivation to make it happen was really high."

On the women's side, URFC has been a key player in helping grow the women's game. Their star studded roster features former and current National Team players from around the globe including recent USWNT World Cup Champions Christen Press, Kelley O'Hara and Becky Sauerbrunn. City SC players will have an opportunity to see URFC live in action in March as they are scheduled to travel to Southern California for a pre-season training camp and match.

"The URFC ownership and organization have done so much to promote the women's game," said City SC Girls Director Carl Higham. "To be on the forefront of providing female players with a tangible pathway to the professional ranks and expose them to the likes of National Team caliber players and what it takes to reach that level is a big opportunity and one we are honored to be a part of."

#### **ABOUT CITY SC:**

City SC is the largest youth soccer club in San Diego, California with roughly 4,000 members. With a curriculum and player pathway that caters to players of all ages, levels and aspirations, the club offers programming for players age 4-19 at the recreational, competitive and US Soccer Development Academy levels.

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