



CITY OF STOCKTON NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Connie Cochran
Public Information Officer
(209) 937-8827
connie.cochran@stocktongov.com

CITY AND STOCKTON THUNDER REACH TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

(Stockton, CA) – The City of Stockton and the Stockton Thunder have reached a tentative agreement that will be submitted as part of the City’s plan of adjustment in chapter 9 federal bankruptcy court. The Thunder and the City worked together in good faith negotiations toward an agreement that will generate additional revenue for the City, while at the same time providing the opportunity for the team to recoup some of the revenues associated with suite sales and merchandise sales at hockey games. The tentative agreement will reduce the City’s contribution to Arena operations by approximately \$200,000 annually.

“From the day that Brad purchased the team, we knew we had a great community partner,” said City Manager Bob Deis. “As a businessman, he recognized that the original lease that he assumed from the prior owner was symptomatic of the agreements the City made in the early 2000’s that led the City into this fiscal crisis. It hasn’t been easy. He made a significant investment in the team and in the community. We appreciate what he has done for the community of Stockton.”

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The Stockton Arena has been home to the Stockton Thunder since the Arena opened in 2005. Almost immediately, the Thunder enjoyed a huge fan base and record attendance, which they have sustained over the past 9 years, even during Stockton's lingering recession. As part of the ECHL, the Thunder has brought civic pride and positive national identity to Stockton.

The Thunder was purchased by the current owner, Brad Rowbotham of Alberta, Canada, in April, 2010. Under the current ownership, the Stockton Thunder has shown a commitment to the Stockton community, not only through the entertainment they provide to thousands of devoted fans, but through their culture of community service. They donate tickets to youth programs, provide youth hockey lessons, support school outreach for literacy programs and encourage school attendance and academic achievement. The annual Thunder Goes Pink event, builds awareness for breast cancer research, with pink ice, pink jerseys and activities that help raise money for non-profit organizations.

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All News Releases can be found on the City of Stockton website. www.stocktongov.com/news

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