

1 Introduced by Council Member Carrico and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Clark-Murray, Freeman, Morgan, Becton and Pittman:

3
4 **RESOLUTION 2023-381-A**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND CONGRATULATING THE
6 UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FAST PITCH SOFTBALL
7 TEAM ON WINNING THE CLASS 2A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP;
8 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the University Christian School's Fast Pitch Softball
11 Team culminated their exemplary season by securing a victory on May
12 23rd, 2023, against tough opponents from Fort Myers Evangelical
13 Christian School, with a final score of 3-2, thus earning the Class
14 2A State Championship title; and

15 **WHEREAS**, this victory marked the first State Championship for
16 the University Christian program and for the respected and dedicated
17 coach Keith Stroud, who has cultivated athletic excellence and spirit
18 in his teams for 39 years, 32 of which were spent at University
19 Christian; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the team finished with a record of 23-2, concluding
21 the playoffs having won 13-0 against St. Joseph Academy in the
22 Regional Quarterfinals, won 12-1 against North Florida Christian in
23 the Regional Semi-Finals, won 8-3 against Providence School in the
24 Regional Championships, and finally in the close matchup of 3-2 in
25 the Class 2A State Championship against the Fort Myers Evangelical
26 Christian Sentinels; and

27 **WHEREAS**, this historic achievement was enabled by the
28 remarkable contributions of the school's four graduating seniors -
29 Kyla Bennett, Macie Bourgholtzer, Emma Reynolds, and Jahliyah
30 Robinson - whose experience, leadership, and unwavering commitment
31 were instrumental in guiding the young team to this milestone. The

1 team, composed of many underclassmen, has matured and faced trials
2 together, and ultimately surmounted the final obstacle together,
3 thereby positioning themselves as strong contenders to defend their
4 title; and

5 **WHEREAS,** the hard-fought championship game was marked by
6 pivotal performances, with Jaleigha Harris driving in the winning run
7 in the bottom of the fifth, and pitcher Sophia Kardatzke brilliantly
8 capping her junior season. As the Fort Myers Evangelical Christian
9 Sentinels posed a significant challenge in the final inning, placing
10 two runners on base with no outs, University Christian forced an out
11 on a baserunning misstep, followed by a crucial Kardatzke strikeout,
12 and a game-ending line out to shortstop Elissa Murdock, sealing the
13 victory for the Christians; and

14 **WHEREAS,** this historic achievement for the University
15 Christian Fast Pitch Softball Team has brought immense pride and joy
16 to their school, their families, and their community, enhancing the
17 tradition of athletic excellence at University Christian; now
18 therefore

19 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

20 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and congratulates
21 the University Christian Fast Pitch Softball Team on their recent
22 Class 2A State Championship. The Council congratulates Head Coach
23 Keith Stroud, and the entire University Christian Softball Team on
24 this tremendous accomplishment.

25 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
26 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
27 without the Mayor's signature.

1 Form Approved:

2

3 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Cory Armstrong, City Council Research

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