

1 Introduced by Council Member Carrico:
2

3 **RESOLUTION 2023-381**

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

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

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

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

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

1 ultimately surmounted the final obstacle together, thereby
2 positioning themselves as strong contenders to defend their title;
3 and

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

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

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

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

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

26 Form Approved:

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28 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

29 Office of General Counsel

30 Legislation Prepared By: Cory Armstrong, City Council Research

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