

**RESOLUTION NO: 2023-1**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED BY THE DUVAL COUNTY RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (“AUTHORITY”) REQUESTING THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE TO DISSOLVE THE DUVAL COUNTY RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THIS RESOLUTION; DIRECTING THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL TO FILE THE LEGISLATION**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Chapter 159, Part V, *Florida Statutes*, the Council of the City of Jacksonville (“Council”) created the Duval County Research Development Authority (“Authority”) in 1986;

**WHEREAS**, the Authority was created for the purpose of promoting scientific research and development in affiliation with the University of North Florida (the “University”);

**WHEREAS**, in 1986, land was donated to the Authority (the “Donated Land”) for the benefit of the University of North Florida Foundation, a non-profit direct support organization of the University;

**WHEREAS**, the Donated Land was the Authority’s sole asset;

**WHEREAS**, since the Authority’s creation, the Authority, for reasons beyond its control, has been unable to attract research and development entities to the City for the University’s benefit,

**WHEREAS**, the Authority has transferred the Donated Land in its entirety to third-parties or the Foundation, and as of December 2021, the Authority no longer owns any assets;

**WHEREAS**, the financial costs associated with maintaining the Authority, including state reporting and audit requirements, have become burdensome on the Authority;

**WHEREAS**, the Authority held a publicly noticed meeting on July 27, 2023, and unanimously approved filing legislation to request the Council to dissolve the Authority in accordance with applicable laws for the reasons stated above;

WHEREAS, the University concurs with the Authority's recommendation as evidenced by the letter from the University attached hereto as Exhibit A; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Authority:

**Section 1. Recitals.** The Authority finds that the recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

**Section 2. Legislative approval.** The Authority hereby approves and authorizes the Office of General Counsel to prepare and introduce legislation introduced by the Duval County Research Development Authority to dissolve and repeal Chapter 67 (Duval County Research Development Authority), *Ordinance Code*, pursuant to applicable laws.

**Section 3. Executive Director Authorization.** The Authority authorizes the Executive Director to obtain and/or execute all documents necessary to effectuate this resolution.

**Section 4. Office of General Counsel.** The Authority directs the Office of General Counsel, in consultation with the Executive Director, to file the Legislation with the City Council Legislative Services Division. The Office of General Counsel is authorized in consultation with the Executive Director to correct scrivener's errors in the Legislation as needed prior to filing.

**Section 5. Effective Date.** The effective date of this Resolution is July 27, 2023.

ADOPTED:

R. B. Taylor  
Chair

3.14.2024  
DATE

VOTE: In Favor: 4 Opposed: \_\_\_\_\_ Abstained: \_\_\_\_\_  
(4 Members Present)



November 15, 2023

R. Bruce Taylor, Ph. D., Chair  
DUVAL COUNTY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
Taylor Engineering  
10151 Deerwood Park Boulevard, Suite 300  
Jacksonville, Florida 32256

Dear Bruce:

As you know, Chapter 159, Florida Statutes provides for the creation of research and development authorities for the purpose of promoting scientific research and development in affiliation with and related to the research and development activities of one or more state-based, accredited, public or private institutions of higher education. The Duval County Research and Development Authority was created in connection with the establishment of the First Coast Technology Park ("Tech Park"), contiguous to the UNF campus.

The Tech Park, located along Kernan Boulevard South and First Coast Tech Parkway, was initiated by a generous gift of undeveloped acreage by the Skinner family made for the purpose of establishing a technology park to support the scientific research and development activities of the University of North Florida. While the Authority and UNF worked diligently over many years to locate public and private entities focused on scientific research and development to acquire or lease property within the Tech Park that could provide collaborations with UNF's faculty and students, these efforts ultimately were not successful. Four parcels within the Tech Park were developed for commercial purposes and the rest of the Park has remained undeveloped since approximately 2010.

In 2021, the Authority voted to authorize conveyance of the remaining real property in the Tech Park to the UNF Foundation, which was the beneficiary of net proceeds of sales of property within the Park under the Skinner family gift agreement. In December 2022, University of North Florida Foundation, Inc., a Florida non-profit corporation and direct-support organization of the University, acquired title to all the real property then owned by the Duval County Research and Development Authority in the Tech Park. Subject to limited restrictions, that property may now be used by the

University for, among other things, academic, educational, athletic, housing, student life, and other University support activities.

The University is grateful for the Authority's efforts over the years to create a successful scientific research and technology park to benefit the University. Members of the Authority's board dedicated many years of service to the Authority's purpose.

Since the Technology Park is now fully owned by the University's Foundation and may be used for more general University purposes, the University's need for an Authority to hold title to and assist the University in locating public and private sector entities no longer exists. The University, therefore, has no objection to the decommissioning of the Authority by the City of Jacksonville.

Sincerely,



Scott Bennett  
Vice President, Administration & Finance

c: Earle Traynham, Ph. D  
Executive Director  
3918 Chicora Wood Place  
Jacksonville, FL 32211