

Introduced by Council Member Lahnen and Co-Sponsored by Council Members Salem, Freeman, Miller, Howland, Boylan, Gay, Carlucci, Johnson and Pittman and amended on the Floor of Council:

RESOLUTION 2025-441-A

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA FOR ITS EXCEPTIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN WOMEN'S ATHLETICS AND RECOGNIZING THE STUDENT-ATHLETES, COACHES, AND STAFF FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO EXCELLENCE BOTH ON THE FIELD AND IN THE CLASSROOM; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the University of North Florida (UNF) has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the advancement of women's sports, fostering a culture of achievement, integrity, and academic excellence; and

WHEREAS, exemplifying the balance of academic and athletic excellence, UNF's women student-athletes have achieved a remarkable cumulative GPA of 3.58, including 90 percent of its student-athletes achieving at least a 3.0 GPA, and 42 earning a perfect 4.0; and

WHEREAS, the UNF Athletic Department won the Atlantic Sun (ASUN) Conference's 2024-25 President's Academic Cup, and the ASUN Conference's highest APR award was due to the academic success of its student-athletes; and

WHEREAS, during the most recent athletic season, UNF women's teams secured 3 team championships and 4 individual championships, showcasing their competitive spirit and elite performance; and

WHEREAS, reflecting the depth of talent and leadership across programs, 42 women student-athletes were named All-Conference, 4 earned Player of the Year honors, and 2 were recognized as Scholar-

1 Athletes of the Year; and

2 **WHEREAS**, setting new standards of excellence and inspiring
3 future generations, 3 women student-athletes received 8 All-American
4 selections, and 37 program records were broken; and

5 **WHEREAS**, softball standout, Allison Benning, earned many
6 honors for both her pitching and hitting abilities, she was named
7 ASUN Conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year, Pitcher of the Year, and
8 Player of the Year; Ms. Benning was also named Mid-Major Player of
9 the Year to go along with her All-American honors; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Zara Siassi became UNF's first All-American in
11 Women's Soccer during the 2024 season, and was also named the ASUN
12 Conference Defensive Player of the Year and Academic All-American;
13 and

14 **WHEREAS**, Smilla Kolbe became UNF's first NCAA Indoor Track
15 All-American when she finished 5th in the 800m at the National
16 Championships, she was also named the ASUN Conference Scholar-Athlete
17 of the Year and the ASUN Most Outstanding Track Performer of the
18 Year; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Smilla Kolbe also finished 6th in the 800m run at the
20 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Outdoor Track and
21 Field Championship and has become the first UNF track and field
22 athlete to earn first-time All-American honors; and

23 **WHEREAS**, these accomplishments bring pride to the City of
24 Jacksonville and serve as a testament to the strength of collegiate
25 athletics in our community; now therefore

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

27 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby commends and
28 congratulates the University of North Florida for its extraordinary
29 success in women's sports, encourages continued support for women's
30 athletics, and celebrates the positive impact of these achievements
31 on the broader Jacksonville community. The City Council recognizes

UNF's women student-athletes, coaches, and support staff for their hard work, perseverance, and contributions to the University and the City.

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

Form Approved:

/s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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