

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-978

A resolution of the City of Gainesville, Florida, affirming its support for naming the newly constructed pedestrian crosswalk on East University Avenue between Northeast 26th Terrace and Southeast 26th Terrace in Memory of Dylan Roberts; for providing a copy of this resolution to the Florida Department of Transportation; and providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, in June 2023, the American Academy of Pediatrics warned that child pedestrian deaths have increased by 11% since 2013 through a report that specifically suggests immense risks for those children who reside in lower-income areas which often have interrupted sidewalk networks and larger roads with higher traffic burden; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission adopted a Vision Zero Policy in 2018 with the goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries in the City of Gainesville by 2040; and

WHEREAS, the accident that took the life of Dylan Roberts, a four-year-old child, is the focus of tireless advocacy from his mother, Megan Durant, for the construction of crosswalks and other safety measures on busy neighborhood roadways; and

WHEREAS, Dylan Roberts was born on December 30, 2016, the youngest of five siblings, and his mother, Megan Durant, remembers him as a high-spirited, loving, energetic, and caring little boy who loved to dance and play with his friends and who enjoyed watching the Power Rangers, Sonic the Hedgehog, and the Ninja Turtles; and

WHEREAS, Dylan's dream was to go to kindergarten, and every day he talked with his mom about how exciting it would be when he was big enough to start school; and

WHEREAS, on October 27, 2021, an otherwise ordinary day, Dylan went to Fred Cone Park, just across the street from his home in Gainesville, with relatives to play in one of their favorite outdoor play spaces; and

WHEREAS, when it was time to return home, the group of children stepped into the roadway and a car traveling on East University Avenue struck and killed Dylan; and

WHEREAS, in the time since Dylan's tragic death, Megan Durant has become a fierce advocate for crosswalks and other safety measures, writing in a recent email sent to the City of Gainesville, "We all know it takes a village. I want to make sure this never happens to another child and that no other mother ever has to feel the pain I do;" and

WHEREAS, after months of persistent contact with city and state officials, Megan Durant has realized her goal of seeing a pedestrian-activated signal across East University Avenue between Northeast 26th Terrace and Southeast 26th Terrace, the section of road where Dylan was killed; and

WHEREAS, work on the signal and crosswalk is now finished and, by action of the Florida Legislature and Florida Department of Transportation it will be named in memory of Dylan Roberts.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA:

Section 1. The City Commission of Gainesville, Florida hereby approves the designation of a pedestrian-activated lighted crosswalk between Northeast 26th Terrace and Southeast 26th Terrace along East University Avenue (State Road 26) in the City of Gainesville Florida as “Dylan Roberts Memorial Crosswalk” and for the erection by the Florida Department of Transportation of suitable markers proclaiming the designation.

Section 2. A copy of this Resolution shall be provided to the Florida Department of Transportation.

Section 3. This Resolution shall take effect upon the date of its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2023.

HARVEY L. WARD, JR.
MAYOR

Attest:

Approved as to form and legality:

KRISTEN BRYANT
INTERIM CITY CLERK

DANIEL M. NEE
CITY ATTORNEY