

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-456

A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Gainesville, Florida; relating to Philip Keyes Yonge Development Research School as further described herein, providing direction to the City Clerk; providing for the recording of this resolution; and providing the effective date.

WHEREAS, Philip Keyes Yonge's (P.K. Yonge) High School is ranked number three out of non-selective high schools in the state, something to be extremely proud of. P.K. Yonge is currently designed to reflect the population diversity of the state of Florida. It uses this environment to research different methodologies for teaching different students. These research results are shared locally, state-wide, nationally, and internationally. The school and the research have been lauded. The school is ranked amongst the top in the state at elementary, middle, and high school levels; and

WHEREAS, P.K. Yonge currently admits students in kindergarten through 12th grade through a lottery system, with a mission statement to "design, test, and disseminate innovations in education through serving a diverse K-12 community." Its student population is representative of Florida's racial and income demographics — something P.K. Yonge prides itself on as a research and innovation school; and

WHEREAS, P.K. Yonge is racially and ethnically diverse to match the population of the state of Florida, and it is also diverse in the makeup of its learners with 13% being labeled gifted, 11% with Individualized Education Programs, and 19% with 504 plans. The income level of the families is evenly spread across income brackets. As P.K. Yonge's mission statement outlines, students benefit from "the power of diverse ideas, talents, and cultures to improve our world," and

WHEREAS, P.K. Yonge has many reasons why it should keep its current admissions process. They include: The diverse student population, disseminating research,

29 educating everyone, emphasis on music/art/performing arts/sports, small class sizes, the
30 K-12 experience/community, Community input, and the faculty and staff care about
31 students; and

32 **WHEREAS**, P.K. Yonge is known for racial and ethnic diversity, socioeconomic
33 diversity, and learning diversity. There are many people with a variety of learning
34 disabilities. Concerned parents created a petition asking to be included in the University
35 of Florida Board of Trustees' decision on P.K. Yonge. Parents believe there are more
36 potential harms than benefits to the selective admissions plan, and we would recommend
37 high school admissions be left as they are; and

38 **WHEREAS**, P.K. Yonge supporters are concerned that selective admission would
39 get rid of the community diversity, which is why many parents have chosen to enroll their
40 children at P.K. Yonge instead of a private school. Parents want their children exposed to
41 different cultures and ideas; diversity is important. They are vehemently opposed to the
42 selective admissions process because it prohibits the diverse aspects of P.K. Yonge that so
43 many people love; and

44 **WHEREAS**, P.K. Yonge's purpose of having a student population that
45 reflects the demographics of the state is so that all research done at P.K. Yonge
46 will be relevant to the entire state, not just a subset of it; and

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48 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION**
49 **OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:**

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51 The City Commission of Gainesville encourages the University of Florida Board of
52 Trustees and Presidential administration to not interfere with the P. K. Yonge High School
53 admission process, allowing this outstanding high school to continue advancing its mission

54 of taking diverse students and families and building communities with shared values.

55 **Section 1.** The City Commission of Gainesville, Florida unites in support and solidarity
56 with Philip Keyes Yonge High School to reflect the diversity of the state of Florida and its
57 mission statement which outlines, that students benefit from “the power of diverse ideas, talents,
58 and cultures to improve our world.”

59 **Section 2.** The City Clerk shall provide a certified copy of this resolution to the University
60 of Florida Board of Trustees Chair, Morteza “Mori” Hosseini; University of Florida President,
61 Ben Sasse; University of Florida Vice President, Penny Schwinn; and University of Florida
62 Professor of Law and Faculty, Senate Chair, Danaya Wright.

63 **Section 3.** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

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65 **PASSED AND ADOPTED**, this 6th day of June, 2024.

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Harvey L. Ward, Jr., Mayor

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75 **ATTEST:**

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Kristen, J. Bryant, City Clerk