

**Introduced By:** DSR Lazo  
**Sponsored By:** Chair Metellus  
Black Caucus  
Vice-Chair Courts  
GAP Chair Vasquez  
GAP Vice-Chair Varela  
Chair Gimenez-Valero  
ILA Al-Qudah  
SBA Chair Hameed

**Contact:** [sgadsr@ucf.edu](mailto:sgadsr@ucf.edu)  
**First Reading:** October 15, 2024;  
**Committee Action:** Passed 12-0-1  
**Second Reading:** October 17, 2024;  
**Final Vote:** Passed 33-0-1



**University of Central Florida  
Fifty-Fifth Student Body Senate  
Proclamation 56-19**

[Proclamation in Remembrance and Recognition of the Ocoee Massacre]

**WHEREAS**, Senate Rule 2.04(G)(1) states that the Student Body Advocacy (SBA) Committee shall pass measures advocating on behalf of the student body regarding student and university affairs at the University of Central Florida (UCF);  
**WHEREAS**, Senate Rule 5.01(D)(1) states that Proclamations are defined as measures recognizing, celebrating, or condemning extraordinary events, organizations, or individuals on behalf of all Student Government Agents;  
**WHEREAS**, On November 2nd, 1920, the small town of Ocoee, Florida, just eleven miles outside of Orlando, would face one of history's worst tragedies, resulting in a death toll that, to this day, is not confirmed;  
**WHEREAS**, After trying to exercise their constitutional rights to vote, Black and African American residents of Ocoee were met with aggression and violence from a mob of white supremacists, of which "50 carloads of men from Orlando came over", a fact that has yet to be acknowledged by many legislators;  
**WHEREAS**, On the eve of November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1920, this aforementioned mob would proceed to set fire to Black churches, schools, and homes, resulting in the death of anywhere between thirty to sixty Black residents, according to the NAACP;  
**WHEREAS**, In the aftermath of the massacre, not a single person was ever prosecuted or charged for the violence and arson that occurred, resulting in the eventual omission of the event from Central Floridian historians, legislators, and educational curricula;  
**WHEREAS**, It was not until 2018 that the city of Ocoee released a proclamation that acknowledged the massacre, following it with a formal apology for "the inhumane acts of terror committed against the African American community of Ocoee,";  
**WHEREAS**, Just as recently as November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis signed a proclamation declaring the date as 1920 Ocoee Election Day Massacre Remembrance Day in Florida;  
**WHEREAS**, As we near another election day on this, the 104<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ocoee Massacre, it is important to highlight the effect that voter suppression can have on the constitutional liberties of different voting groups;  
**WHEREAS**, The events at Ocoee and their repercussions have had a prolific effect on historical study in Orlando and the University of Central Florida, with professor of English Dr. Kevin Meehan penning a one-act play surrounding the event and professor of History Robert Cassanello who has spent over fifteen years researching the tragedy; and  
**WHEREAS**, In conjunction with the passage of this Proclamation, the University of Central Florida should aim to highlight the strength and resilience of our Black communities by continuing study into the history of Black suffrage and equality.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Fifty-Sixth Student Senate of the University of Central Florida that the University engages in recognition and remembrance of the tragedy that occurred in Ocoee on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1920, as well as acknowledging the affect it has had on the Central Florida community; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Proclamation be sent to University President Alexander Cartwright, Vice President for Student Success and Well-Being Adrienne Frame, Vice President for Access and Community Engagement Andrea Guzman, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the Ginsburg Center for Inclusion and Community Engagement, Multicultural Student Center, Orange County Regional History Center, Black Student Union, Caribbean Students' Association, National Association of Black Journalists, Progressive Black Men Inc, National Society of Black Engineers, Black Man's Candor, Black Women in Medicine Inc, The Black Female Development Circle Inc, National Black Law Student Association, National Association of Black Accountants, The National Council of Negro Women, SISTUHS, Inc, Club Kreyol, Fanm Kreyol Inc, Big Sister Little Sister Mentoring Program, African American Biomedical Sciences Organization, RUKUS Entertainment, Project for Haiti Knights, The Gospel and Cultural Choir, Naturally Textured, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, African Student Organization, Men of

Integrity, Dominican Student Association, Neg Kreyol, Pinky Promise Movement Incorporated, Black Undergraduate Kinesiology Association, Black Men In Medicine Inc., Black Psychology Club at UCF, Black Student Awareness, Jamaican Student Association, John T. Washington Honor Society, The Affiliate Chapter of the National Black Association of Speech Language and Hearing at the University of Central Florida, FACES Modeling Troupe Inc, Alpha Kappa Psi, National Pan-Hellenic Council, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Diversified Greek Council, Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity, Inc, Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority, Inc.

**AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES**



Allison Pohlmann  
Senate President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



Bryce Lister  
Student Body President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date