

Introduced By: Senator Capozzi
Sponsored By: Chair Temple
Student Body Advocacy (SBA) Committee
Contact: sgacie1@ucf.edu
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March 3rd, 2023
Committee Action: Passed 6-0-0
Second Reading: March 23, 2023
Final Vote: Passed 27-0-1



**University of Central Florida
Fifty-Fourth Student Body Senate
Proclamation 54-41**

[Proclamation Recognizing October 10th as World Homeless Day]

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, The Department of Housing and Urban Development defines “homelessness” as individuals who lack resources and support networks to obtain permanent housing;

WHEREAS, Chronic homelessness is defined by the National Alliance to End Homelessness as an individual who has experienced homelessness for at least a year;

WHEREAS, 110,528 homeless individuals exhibited patterns of chronic homelessness, comprising 27% of the total homeless population;

WHEREAS, In 2022, the Council on Homelessness issued a report that stated approximately 25% of the homeless population in Florida were households that included adult individuals with children;

WHEREAS, The report also determined that 6,360 families were considered homeless, up 19.5% from 2021;

WHEREAS, According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, there was an increase of 15% between 2019 and 2020;

WHEREAS, According to the United Nations, there are an estimated 100 million homeless people worldwide, with 1.6 billion people lacking adequate housing;

WHEREAS, According to the 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, there were 28,328 people experiencing homelessness in Florida and 2,317 people in Orange, Osceola, and Seminole counties;

WHEREAS, Florida has the third-highest number of homeless individuals in the country, followed by California and New York;

WHEREAS, In 2019, the National Alliance to End Homelessness reported that 28% of homeless individuals in Florida were unsheltered, meaning they were living on the streets, in cars, or in other places not meant for human habitation;

WHEREAS, According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, there were 6,048 homeless veterans in Florida in 2020;

WHEREAS, Orlando has had several initiatives in the past to address homelessness, including a Housing First program that provides permanent supportive housing to the unhoused, and a mobile services program that offers on-the-spot assistance to homeless individuals in need;

WHEREAS, Nationally, over 40% of college students at four-year universities and about half of students at two-year universities faced housing insecurity in 2020;

WHEREAS, Orange County Public Schools found that roughly 9,700 students experienced homelessness throughout the academic year;

WHEREAS, Homelessness can be caused by a number of reasons such as physical and mental disabilities, loss of income, lack of affordable housing, domestic violence, aging out of foster care, and substance abuse;

WHEREAS, Central Florida only has 13 affordable rental units available for every 100 low-income households;

WHEREAS, Rent in Orlando, as of 2022, increased by 24%, currently priced at \$1,929;

WHEREAS, Individuals must work 84 hours each week earning minimum wage to afford a one bedroom rental in Florida;

WHEREAS, The Florida Department of Education provides a Homeless Fee Exemption in the Florida College System;

WHEREAS, The Homeless Fee Exemption qualifies homeless as a student who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or whose primary nighttime residence is a public or private shelter designed to provide temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;

WHEREAS, Organizations such as SALT Outreach provide day services such as laundry, showers, barber and case management to low-income and homeless individuals, providing hygiene items, clothing, charging stations and a mailing system for clients;

WHEREAS, Ordinances are created in every major city which limit the mobility of homeless individuals and targets them for behavior that they were forcibly relegated to;

WHEREAS, Anti-homeless, or “hostile,” architecture is developed to deter the homeless from remaining in one area for too long such as spiky, uneven ground under overpasses, benches with armrests, and street spikes;

WHEREAS, Between 1999-2011, The National Coalition for the Homeless reported 1,089 crimes against homeless individuals. It has been noted that there is a severe underreporting of attacks against homeless individuals;

WHEREAS, There are numerous stereotypes attributed to the homeless community that could be addressed if greater education was afforded to the public, resulting in the community coming under attack, be it through verbal or physical means;

WHEREAS, The University of Central Florida’s Student Care Services (SCS) and Knights helping Knights Pantry offer resources to students that are considered homeless or that are struggling with food and housing insecurities through the provision of dining scholarships, meal cards, tuition waivers, and other programs;

WHEREAS, UCF recognizes Nov. 14-21 as National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week;

WHEREAS, The Day aims to highlight the systemic problems of homeless people and encourage individuals, communities, and governments to take action to address homelessness; and

WHEREAS, World Homeless Day was first observed on October 10th, 2010, by a group of homelessness advocates from around the world. Events and activities include outreach programs, fundraisers, and awareness-raising campaigns to encourage people to get involved.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Fifty-Fourth Student Senate of the University of Central Florida recognizes October 10th as World Homeless Day and encourages the University to host events that support the needs of the homeless community;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That more efforts should be made to encourage students to volunteer with organizations on campus that serve the homeless and low income community;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That UCF should place a focus on educating students on homelessness and the ways in which we can make a difference in the community;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That more resources should be made readily available to students who are experiencing homelessness and that these resources should be advertised more around campus by advisors, faculty, and administrators; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Proclamation be sent to Vice President of Student Success and Well-Being Dr. Adrienne Frame, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Dr. Andrea Guzman, Assistant Professors Amy Donley, Patrick Carlton, and Andrew Sullivan, Senior Vice President for Student Success Paul Dosal, Vice President for Compliance and Risk Rhonda Bishop, Vice President for Government and Community Relations and Associate General Counsel Janet Owen, Volunteer UCF Student Director, Undergraduate Law Journal Advisor James Beckman, Christian Service Center, Coalition for the Homeless, Lavender Council,, Directors of the Student Union Rick Falco, Director of Student Care Services Ryan Iocco, Interim Dean Dana Juntunen,, Assistant Director of Community Engagement Amanda Dever, Christopher McDonald, Salt Outreach, UCF Director of Housing Arian Bryant, UCF Chapter of the NAACP, Knights Pantry, The HOPE Team, and Hearts for the Homeless.

AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES

Dylan Hall
Senate President

Date

Daniella Lopez
Student Body President

Date