



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

76th STUDENT SENATE Senate Resolution

Resolution #: 05

Primary Sponsor(s): Souvenir

Co-Sponsor(s): Ahuja, Barresi, Burton, Castellanos, Carr, Chinn, Emokidi, Hine, McEnery, Meier, Rodriguez, Vargheese, Windlan

Date: December 5, 2023

Whereas: The \$90 million planned Atlanta Public Safety Training Center referred to colloquially as “Cop City” is being built on 85 acres of the Weelaunee Forest, also known as South River Forest, located within DeKalb County, Georgia, and

Whereas: Weelaunee Forest was once home to the Muscogee (Creek) people who were forcibly removed from the area by the Indian Removal Act of 1830, and, in November 2021, members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation performed a tribal dance in Weelaunee Forest in protest of the building of the Atlanta Public Safety Training Center, and

Whereas: Fears of environmental devastation as the Weelaunee Forest is considered a “massive green lung,” playing a role in keeping the air clean and preventing flooding of the surrounding communities, and

Whereas: Through the land acknowledgement, the Student Senate honors the ongoing relationship between Indigenous communities and the land of which they were removed from, and


Whereas: Tallahassee native, Manuel Esteban Paez Teran, known as “Tortuguita,” and eco-activist who was camping in Weelaunee Forest in protest to the Atlanta Public Safety Training Center was fatally shot by Georgia officers at least 57 times while sitting down with their legs crossed and hands in the air, therefore

Be it resolved by the Seventy-sixth Student Senate at Florida State University that: The Student Senate condemns the construction of the Atlanta Public Safety Training Center as it poses the threat of disrupting the important environmental functions of Weelaunee Forest, and

Be it further resolved that: The Student Senate acknowledges Weelaunee Forest as stolen Muscogee land and emphasizes the importance of Indigenous voices in the construction of sites on historically Indigenous lands, and

Be it further resolved that: We mourn the death of Tortuguita and the impact of their loss on friends, family, and the Tallahassee community at large, and

Be it further resolved that: A copy of this resolution be sent to
Dr. Richard McCullough, President of Florida State University
Dr. Amy Hecht, Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. Zduy Chu, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs
Dr. Brandon Bowden, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
Jackson Hitchcock, Student Body President
Dr. Felicia Williams, Director of Student Engagement
Andy Johnson, Program Director of Student Governance and Advocacy
Col. Chris Wright, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Safety
Andre Dickens, Mayor of the City of Atlanta
Dr. Andrew Frank, Director of the Native American & Indigenous Studies Center at Florida State University

DocuSigned by:


12/11/2023 | 9:13 AM PST

OFFICIAL: _____

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Student Senate President

SENATE VOTE: Acclamation
PASSED: December 6th, 2023