

By Senator Perry

9-04302-23

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Senate Resolution

A resolution remembering the loving and energetic life of Dylan Roberts; celebrating the tireless advocacy of his mother, Megan Durant, for the construction of crosswalks and other safety measures on busy neighborhood roadways; and expressing appreciation for the collaborative work of the Gainesville City Commission and the Florida Department of Transportation to improve pedestrian safety.

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, 4-year-old Dylan went to Fred Cone Park, just across the street from his home in Gainesville, with his brothers and sisters 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 months 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

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30 Gainesville, "We all know it takes a village. I want to make  
31 sure this never happens to another child and that no other  
32 mother ever has to feel the pain I do," and

33 WHEREAS, after months of persistent contact with city and  
34 state officials, Megan Durant will soon realize her goal of  
35 seeing a pedestrian-activated signal across East University  
36 Avenue between Northeast 26th Terrace and Southeast 26th  
37 Terrace, the section of road where Dylan was killed, and

38 WHEREAS, work on the signal and crosswalk is expected to be  
39 finished by the end of July and, fittingly, it will be named in  
40 memory of Dylan Roberts, NOW, THEREFORE,

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42 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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44 That the Florida Senate remembers the loving and energetic  
45 life of Dylan Roberts and celebrates the tireless advocacy of  
46 his mother, Megan Durant, for ensuring the safety of children  
47 who simply want to spend a day at the park.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Senate is  
49 appreciative of the collaborative work of the Gainesville City  
50 Commission and the Florida Department of Transportation to  
51 install a pedestrian-activated signal in the section of East  
52 University Avenue where Dylan was killed.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with  
54 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Megan Durant as  
55 a tangible token of the sentiments of the Florida Senate.