

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2019-1058**

**TITLE: Resolution to Save The Swamp!**

**AUTHORS: Senate President Pro-Tempore Emily Dunson, Information & Communication Chairwoman Meryl Jones, Judiciary Chairman Will Sandifer, Senator Branden Pearson, Senator Tyler Kendrick, Senator Sam Girschick, Senator Kyle Levy**

**SPONSORS: Student Body President-Elect Michael Murphy, External Affairs Chairwoman Emily Dempsey, Internal Affairs Chairman Brett Oerhle, Senior Class President Trevor Pope, Chomp the Vote Chairman Dylan Santalo, Rules & Ethics Chairwoman Abby Morris, Budget & Appropriations Chairman Cooper Brown, Allocations Chairwoman Katie Hernandez, Majority Party Leader Tony Emmett, Senator Brady Alexander, Senator Emily Blomely, Senator Amol Dhaliwal, Senator Andrew Goren, Senator Noah Wright**

**WHEREAS,** The Swamp Restaurant has been a source of University of Florida Gator Pride since its doors opened on December 30th, 1994; and,

**WHEREAS,** the 908 Development Group hosted a community workshop to discuss proposed developmental changes to the “land from The Swamp Restaurant and the Post Office on Northwest 17th Street, ending at the old Florida Bookstore building and Pascal’s Coffeehouse [1];” and,

**WHEREAS,** the proposed development changes would result in The Swamp Restaurant, Grill Fresh, Larry’s Giant Subs, Style Cuts, and the Post Office being demolished and replaced with luxury high-rise apartments; and,

**WHEREAS,** the 908 Development Group will be submitting a special use permit and development plans for this geographic area to the City of Gainesville in the near future; and,

**WHEREAS,** over 29,000 past, present, and future members of the Gator Nation have signed a petition to save The Swamp Restaurant as of April 22, 2019 [2]; and,

**WHEREAS,** State Representative Anthony Sabatini submitted an amendment to designate The Swamp Restaurant as a “fully protected historical site” and establish a \$10,000,000 fine to be paid to the University of Florida Student Government if a local development order for demolition is granted [3]; and,

**WHEREAS,** the Swamp Restaurant has been a hub of culture and camaraderie for the University of Florida community for nearly 25 years; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate opposes the proposed development project that would result in the demolition of The Swamp Restaurant and surrounding properties.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate implores the 908 Development Group not to pursue this development project further.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages the Gainesville City Commission to reject any development requests submitted that would result in the demolition of The Swamp Restaurant and surrounding area.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate supports State Representative Sabatini's efforts to designate The Swamp Restaurant as a "fully protected historical site."

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate fully stands behind the efforts of past, present, and future members of the Gator Nation to save The Swamp Restaurant and surrounding properties.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to President W. Kent Fuchs, Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. David Parrott, Gainesville Mayor Lauren Poe, Commissioner Helen Warren, Commissioner Gail Johnson, Commissioner Gigi Simmons, Commissioner Harvey Ward, Commissioner David Arreola, Commissioner Adrian Hayes-Santos, State Representative Anthony Sabatini, and the 908 Development Group.*

[1] <https://www.wuft.org/news/2019/04/17/midtown-makeover-development-plan-to-replace-swam-post-office-with-apartments/>

[2] <https://www.change.org/p/city-of-gainesville-save-swamp-restaurant-gainesville>

[3] <https://twitter.com/AnthonySabatini/status/1118960993592385539>