

**The 40th Session of the Student Body Senate**

**Florida International University**

**Miami, Florida**

## **S.R. 04 015**

*A Permanent Prayer Space for Muslim Students at FIU*

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**IN THE SENATE**

November 14, 2023

*Senator Zahir Mansuri, Senator Daniel Salup-Cid, Senate President Kaily LaChapelle, Senator Alexander Stone, Muslim Student Association (MSA) of FIU President Fatima Zia, and MSA Advisor Aqsa Mehmood, introduced the following resolution, which was presented on the Senate floor:*

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## **A RESOLUTION**

To establish a permanent prayer room on campus dedicated for Muslim Students to perform their obligatory prayers throughout the day.

*Be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Body at Florida International University assembled,*

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**Whereas,** Florida International University is home to over 500 Muslim students, some of which who reside on campus;

**Whereas,** A Muslim, by definition, is one who practices the religion of Islam, has 5 obligatory prayers spread across each day, and seeks to perform each prayer on time based upon the prayer schedule outlined each day;

**Whereas,** the serenity room on the third floor of the Graham Center at Florida International University is currently utilized for Muslims to perform their daily prayer when on campus; however, it is currently utilized as a multipurpose room that often holds organizational events or for other meditation practices;

**Whereas,** Muslim students seek a permanent prayer room solely dedicated for Muslims to perform their prayers, as they seek to often hold communal prayers at their respective times without any hindrances;

**Whereas,** FIU's plan to build a chapel on campus that includes a prayer room for different religious groups will not be completed for another 2 years;

**Whereas,** this stands as a matter of urgency for Muslim students at this University as the population of practicing Muslims on campus rises each year, and the immediate demand for a permanent prayer space rises as well;

**Whereas,** over 250 signatures were received on a petition calling for a permanent prayer space for Muslims on the Florida International University campus;

**Whereas,** establishing a permanent prayer space will provide a sense of inclusion for Muslim Students on campus in which the University works to provide accommodations for students of different faiths;



**Whereas,** Muslim students can have a comfortable space to perform daily prayers without interruption;

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** by the Senate of the Student Body that this resolution calls for Florida International University administration to work diligently in dedicating a room on campus for Muslims to establish their prayer at any time during the day in which they desire, with accessibility to this room available during all operating hours;

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved,** that SGA will call upon FIU to see the urgent need for a permanent prayer space for Muslim Students year-round, and the Muslim Student Association plans to work diligently with the respective offices to provide this space for the students on first the MMC campus and eventually all of them.

### Senate Resolution Transmission Form

This resolution is presented by the Senate of the Student Body at Florida International University. It is presented by the Senate President Pro-Tempore and affixed with the signature of the Senate President. Both the Senate President and the Senate President Pro-Tempore affirm that the information presented below is accurate and that the resolution has successfully passed in the Senate of the Student Body. The resolution is presented on this day and at this hour for signature or veto.

<b>SR 04 015</b>			
Date Introduced:	11/15/2023		
Committees Assigned:	(1) Student Life and Academic Concerns Committee (2) Rules and Administration Committee		
Student Life and Academic Concerns: 11/20/2023	<b>6</b> <i>For</i>	<b>0</b> <i>Against</i>	<b>0</b> <i>Abstaining</i>
Rules and Administration: 1/22/2024	<b>5</b> <i>For</i>	<b>0</b> <i>Against</i>	<b>0</b> <i>Abstaining</i>
Vote on the Senate Floor: 2/12/2024	<b>19</b> <i>For</i>	<b>0</b> <i>Against</i>	<b>1</b> <i>Abstaining</i>
 _____ Signature of the Senate President		 _____ Signature of the Senate President Pro Tempore	

### **Presidential Signature of a Senate Resolution**

On this day, at this time, and in this place, the Senate of the Student Body at Florida International University does hereby present this resolution to the desk of the President of the Student Body for signature or veto. The Senate has passed this resolution and all its accompaniments, in accordance with the Constitution and Statutes of the Student Government Association at Florida International University. It is presented in good faith, whereas the officers of the Senate have affixed their signatures to affirm the resolution has followed due procedure and is valid. The Senate will await your decision.

**SR 04 015**



*Kaily LaChapelle*, Senate President



*Tiara Campbell*, Senate President Pro-Tempore



*Karina Hernandez*, Senate Floor Leader



*Alexander P. Sutton*, Student Body President

