

University Academy Middle School Speech and Debate team in token of the Mayor and Council's respect and high regard for their phenomenal success and representation as citizens of Kansas City.



Authenticated as Passed



Quinton Lucas, Mayor



Marilyn Sanders, City Clerk

MAY 08 2025

Date Passed



Legislation Text

File #: 250388

RESOLUTION NO. 250388

Recognizing the accomplishments of the University Academy School of Advocacy Speech and Debate Team.

WHEREAS, the School of Advocacy at University Academy inspires students to use their voices and skills to drive meaningful change, preparing them to lead and make a lasting impact in their communities and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) is the largest organization for debate and forensics education and competition in the world, drawing participation from schools across the United States and internationally, including Canada, Japan, Korea, and India; and

WHEREAS, the students at University Academy have risen to the top ranks of this global competition, earning distinction as among the most elite public speakers on the planet; and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2025, the University Academy Middle School Speech and Debate team was ranked number one in the State of Missouri and number four in the world by the National Speech and Debate Association; and

WHEREAS, these achievements reflect the commitment, discipline, and exceptional talent of students Sheldon Bell, Harley Cowan, Aaliyah Lee, Sky Thomas, Yatti Simmons, Heaven Abercrombie, and Dayleyan Dunn, whose dedication to public speaking and debate exemplifies academic excellence and leadership; and

WHEREAS, this success would not be possible without the guidance and vision of Carl Stafford, head coach and founder of the University School of Advocacy, whose tireless efforts continue to empower and transform young minds into community leaders and change agents; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the Mayor and Council hereby recognize and congratulate the University Academy School of Advocacy Speech and Debate Team for their outstanding achievements and contributions to civic leadership, education, and global excellence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be spread upon the Minutes of the Council in testimony thereof and that a copy hereof be presented to Coach Stafford and to the