

PROCLAMATION

RECOGNIZING THE RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE GIFFORD YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT CENTER

WHEREAS, the Gifford Youth Achievement Center has been serving the community since 1998, providing the tools to ensure that every child who walks through its doors has a chance to graduate from high school and choose a life rooted in stability and joy; and

WHEREAS, since GYAC began offering after-school and summer academic programming, the high school graduation rate of African-American students in Indian River County has increased from 51 percent to well over 80 percent and is rising each year; and

WHEREAS, GYAC has been so instrumental in increasing those rates that its Board of Directors felt it imperative to build additional space to provide programs for students on their waiting list; and

WHEREAS, GYAC began the \$7.4 million Dream Weaver Capital Campaign to build a new 14,000 square foot expansion building with the help of its Board, benefactors, and community supporters; and

WHEREAS, GYAC achieved great success via dozens of generous donors, totaling \$6.5 million; and

WHEREAS, donors have continued to support GYAC in creating an endowment fund that will protect the community's investment in GYAC and ensure its programming will continue for years to come; and

WHEREAS, an expansion project groundbreaking took place on June 28, 2018, and -- with expedited efforts from the architectural and construction firms -- has been completed in under a year, with the public Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on May 15, 2019; and

WHEREAS, GYAC guarantees a return on investment by continuing to raise graduation rates and teach its students the lessons of perseverance, respect, strength, and self-confidence.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA, does hereby recognize and laud the opening of the new Gifford Youth Achievement Center Expansion Building, and wish the staff continued success in their remarkable efforts.

Adopted this 21st day of May, 2019.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Bob Solari, Chairman

Susan Adams, Vice Chairman

Peter D. O'Bryan

Joseph E. Flescher

Tim Zorc