



Item: CG: A-1b

COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday, March 30, 2024

SUBJECT: APPROVE NAMING OF UNIVERSITY ELEMENTS

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Recommend that the BoT approve the naming of the “Craig and Barbara Weiner Holocaust Museum of South Florida at FAU” as a 2,000-sf distinctive addition to the Kurt and Marilyn Wallach Holocaust and Jewish Studies Building expected to open in Summer 2025 on the Boca Raton campus. The Weiner Holocaust Museum will become a permanent home for a collection of authentic artifacts from the Holocaust while creating a legacy to their tireless work in educating about the importance of standing up against all forms of hate, prejudice, and bigotry through Holocaust education.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Donation:

The Holocaust Learning and Education Fund, Inc. (HLEF) located in Weston, Florida is a Florida not-for-profit corporation with a mission of providing Holocaust education to Florida’s public and private schools. It has pledged a cash gift of \$500,000 toward the construction of the “Craig and Barbara Weiner Holocaust Museum of South Florida at FAU,” and a gift of authentic artifacts from the period of the Holocaust that will be displayed in the Weiner Holocaust Museum with an expected value of at least \$100,000.

Purpose:

The purpose of this gift is to aid students, and the community to learn not only about this horrible period of our history – the Holocaust – and its historical facts, but equally important to learn from the lessons of the Holocaust. Through historical artifacts, students and visitors learn first-hand, what happens from hate, intolerance, antisemitism, racism, and bigotry.

The Weiner Holocaust Museum will be a distinctive addition to the Wallach Holocaust and Jewish Studies Building expanding its prominence as an educational and cultural destination. HLEF's Holocaust educational outreach program to middle and high school students will strengthen the outreach of the Gutterman Family Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education to K-12 teachers, while bringing hundreds of middle and high school students to campus each year.

Donor's Background:

In 2013, Craig R. Weiner and Barbara J. Weiner of Weston, Florida co-founded the Holocaust Learning and Education Fund (HLEF). The mission of the fund is to broaden holocaust education in the United States, with the goal of helping students apply the lessons of history to their present lives. The fund is a not-for-profit organization under the laws of the State of Florida. Mr. Weiner is President and Mrs. Weiner Vice President of HLEF.

HLEF conducts educational programs in Florida schools. One such program is the annual Holocaust Reflection Contest, done in cooperation with Nova Southeastern University in Davie, Florida. In this program, public and private school students submit essays, short films, or artworks to depict the lessons of holocaust education. In addition, HLEF interacts with the Craig and Barbara Weiner Holocaust Museum of South Florida within the Alvin Sherman Library at Nova Southeastern University in Davie. The Museum was established in 2016.

In addition, Craig Weiner is President, and Barbara Weiner is Vice President, of the Craig and Barbara Weiner Family Foundation of Weston, Florida, established in 2015. The foundation emphasizes support of education, including higher education and Holocaust education. Support also is given to Jewish organizations, arts and culture, and human services.

Prior to their retirement, Craig Weiner operated Craig R. Weiner Associates Inc., a real estate and management company in Weston, Florida.

Craig and Barbara Weiner were named Social Justice Change Makers by the Anti-Defamation League of Florida in May 2021. They were awarded the 2022 Southeastern United States Leadership Award by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum – Washington, D.C. and honored as "Humanitarians of the Year" – Soref JCC – Plantation in 2023.

They reside in Weston, Florida.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Cost of signage and installation – TBD. Additionally, FAU, through donations or other legally available resources, will be responsible for construction costs not covered by the gift and for costs of operating the Museum in perpetuity for so long as the Wallach Building remains

operational. While we expect to raise the full amount needed from our donors, the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters has legally available funds in its budget that may be used as a back stop for the construction costs and existing significant endowments given for the purpose of supporting programs and operations in the Wallach Building are also available.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

Implementation date is to be determined.

Presented by: David Green

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