



Item: AS: A-7

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS
Tuesday, November 15, 2022

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF HONORARY DOCTORATE

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Request approval of the conferral of Honorary Doctorate on Mr. Avron Fogelman.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

University Policy 2.3 (Honorary Doctorates) specifies that those nominated for Honorary Doctorates be recommended to the FAU Board of Trustees by the University Faculty Senate Honors and Awards Committee, the Provost and the President. An additional candidate is being recommended at this time.

As detailed in his nomination letter, Mr. Fogelman is well established as a real estate entrepreneur, philanthropist, and civic leader. Additionally, his lifetime devotion to sports and US history has benefited Florida Atlantic University and its academic programs.

As an integral part of FAU's Schmidt Family Complex for Academic and Athletics Excellence, the Avron B. Fogelman Sports Museum opened to the public on February 1, 2020. FAU became a permanent home and destination for Mr. Fogelman's distinguished collection of artifacts that depict historical events in sports and the history of our country and world; incorporate the collection into academic, athletic and community engagement opportunities throughout the university; and create an intimate yet inspiring educational experience that depicts the story behind each artifact.

The museum also provides our Department of History and our School of Communication with a unique venue to host internal and external (visiting) speakers with the ability to present to audiences of all ages (including FAU's Henderson School students) which will bring the collection to life through historic references, opportunities to feature specific parts of the collection, the potential to present a regular lecture series, or other community outreach. The museum also provides a site for FAU's Museum Studies students to learn firsthand how to run a professional museum.

Finally, Mr. Fogelman gives generously of himself by frequently speaking at the museum to special groups, helps train the student docents to work in the museum, and funds through an annual gift the care and maintenance of the collection. The Museum will enrich the lives of thousands of students and

community members for years to come and help with the education of many thousands more each year, elevating FAU's reputation as a center of learning and culture for the entire southeast United States.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

If approved, this Honorary Doctorate will be conferred at a future commencement ceremony.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

Supporting Documentation: Nomination materials

Presented by: Dr. Michael Horswell, Dean of Arts and Letters

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Michele Hawkins, Interim Provost

CC: Dr. John Kelly, President; Mr. Chris Deliseo, VP of Advancement

FROM: Dr. Michael J. Horswell, Dean 

DATE: November 1, 2022

RE: Nomination of Mr. Avron Fogelman for Doctor Honoris Causa in Humane Letters

Pursuant to the University Policy on Honorary Doctorates, I hereby nominate Mr. Avron Fogelman for the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters on behalf of the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters. As this memorandum of support will detail, Mr. Fogelman has exceeded the criteria for this recognition, as laid out in our policy:

“Selection criteria are based on national and international standards of exceptional achievements that are primarily intellectual in nature. Consideration may also be given to individuals who have contributed in significant ways to the advancement of disciplines or programs at FAU and/or to the development of the state and region.”

The name Avron Fogelman is well known as a real estate entrepreneur, philanthropist, and civic leader. After earning his degree from Tulane University, he returned to his native Memphis, Tennessee. He was the founder and Chairman of Fogelman Properties, a privately held Memphis Tennessee real estate organization actively involved in the ownership, development, acquisition, and property management of more than 20,000 apartment units. He was also has had a lifetime devotion to sports and US history, as will be detailed below.

Avron Fogelman purchased the Class AA Memphis baseball club in 1978. During that same year, he purchased the Memphis Rogues soccer team of the North American Soccer League, a team that went on to win league championships. In 1983 he became co-owner of the Kansas City Royals baseball team, a team that went on to win the 1984 American League Western Division Championship, the 1985 American League Championship, as well as the 1985 World Series. Mr. Fogelman served on the Board of Directors of the American League of Major League Baseball. In 1986, the players of Major League Baseball voted Mr. Fogelman as the “Most Admired Owner” in the highly respected “Baseball

Confidential” publication. This distinction by the players of the league is evidence of the great humanitarian Mr. Fogelman was known to be.

Avron Fogelman has also been very active in many educational endeavors. He has endowed the public-school program of Arts in the Schools and in 1987, launched the Avron B. Fogelman Scholars Program to provide scholarships to low-income students who wish to attend the University of Memphis. Mr. Fogelman is also a past commissioner of the State of Tennessee Board of Education. In 1998, he was elected to the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame.

The University of Memphis named its college of business “The Fogelman College of Business and Economics” in honor of the Fogelman family. In 1980, the Fogelman Executive Center opened at the University of Memphis, serving not only the Fogelman College of Business of Economics, but the rest of the Memphis community. Tulane University named its basketball facility “Avron B. Fogelman Arena” after he helped fund its renovation and in addition Mr. Fogelman was a member of the Tulane Board of Administrators.

He was president of the Memphis Area Chamber of Commerce, chairman of Shelby County (Tennessee) Planning Commission, first chairman of the Memphis and Shelby County Sports Authority, Philanthropist of the Year and Civitan’s “Citizen of the Year” Award. He has also been Chairman of National Civil Rights Museum Awards banquet, the NAACP Freedom Awards gala, the March of Dimes telethon, and Special Olympics.

In 1986, the Tennessee Legislature, with the concurrence of the U.S. Department of Transportation, honored by Mr. Fogelman by naming the eastern leg of I-240 the “Avron B. Fogelman Expressway.”

Until a few years ago it was little known that Avron Fogelman amassed one of the world’s foremost private collections of sports memorabilia. When he began spending time in Boca Raton, he brought the collection with him. Then, in December 2017, Mr. Fogelman made a pledge and commitment to President Kelly of his sports memorabilia and funding to construct a 3,700 square foot museum on FAU’s Boca Raton campus within the Schmidt Family Complex for Academic and Athletics Excellence. His gifts collectively totaled over \$10 million.

The Avron B. Fogelman Sports Museum was dedicated on January 31, 2020, opening to the public on February 1, 2020. His mission was to establish FAU as the permanent home and destination for this distinguished collection of artifacts that depict historical events in sports and the history of our country and world; incorporate the collection into academic, athletic and community engagement opportunities throughout the university; and create an intimate yet inspiring educational experience that depicts the story behind each artifact.

Mr. Fogelman personally curated the collection and ensured it was installed as he had organized the artefacts. He emphasized opportunities for intergenerational connections as historic and educational stories among visitors of all ages. He understood the educational value beyond sports as an opportunity to learn the history of our country. The artifact presentations tell “stories” that maintain

the historic significance of the collection for future generations. The museum also provides our Department of History and our School of Communication with a unique venue to host internal and external (visiting) speakers with the ability to present to audiences of all ages (including FAU's Henderson School students) which will bring the collection to life through historic references, opportunities to feature specific parts of the collection, the potential to present a regular lecture series, or other community outreach. The museum also provides a site for our Museum Studies students to learn firsthand how to run a professional museum.

Finally, Mr. Fogelman gives generously of himself by frequently speaking at the museum to special groups, helps train the student docents to work in the museum, and funds through an annual gift the care and maintenance of the collection. The Museum will enrich the lives of thousands of students and community members for years to come and help with the education of many thousands more each year, elevating FAU's reputation as a center of learning and culture for the entire southeast United States.

Given Mr. Avron Fogelman's lifetime commitment to education, sports, and preserving American history through his collecting and curating, and given his abundant generosity in giving his sports collection to FAU, we propose to honor him with the bestowal of the Doctor Honoris Causa in Humane Letters.

Thank you for your consideration.

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- NEW BOCA HQ FOR HAIR CLUB (23)
- ALINA RESIDENCES ON WAY TO BOCA (35)



Avron Fogelman and FAU president John Kelly hold up items from Fogelman's collection that will soon be on display at FAU. Photo courtesy of O'Connell & Goldberg Public Relations.

Former Kansas City Royals owner donates sports memorabilia collection to FAU

Collection will become Sports Museum on campus

By: **Marisa Herman** Associate Editor

By the end of the year, sports fans will be able to see Joe DiMaggio's 1936 rookie uniform, the 1985 Kansas City Royals World Series Trophy and Hank Aaron's uniform worn in 1974 when he broke the career home run record on the Florida Atlantic University campus.

Boca Raton resident, former Kansas City Royals owner and sports fan Avron Fogelman is donating his personal sports memorabilia collection to the school.

The collection consists of 562 pieces and it is considered to be one of the

largest private sports collections owned by an individual.

Soon, it will be on display at the newly constructed Schmidt Family Complex for Academic and Athletic Excellence.

The Fogelman Sports Museum at the Schmidt Family Complex for Academic and Athletic Excellence is slated to open in December.

FAU President John Kelly said the exhibit will attract people from all over the country and even the world.

"It's a jaw dropper," he said of the collection. "It's really great stuff"

The exhibit will be about 3,500-square-foot and is being paid for by Fogelman. In addition to donating the items, Fogelman will donate \$1.8 million to pay for the design, construction, and furnishing costs for the new space, as well as hiring and training of museum staff.

Total, the collection and cash donation is

[CONT. PG 2]



Avron Fogelman shows John Kelly a signed Jackie Robinson glove from his collection. Photo courtesy of O'Connell & Goldberg Public Relations.

Former Kansas City Royals owner donates sports memorabilia collection to FAU

[FROM PG 1] estimated to be valued at about \$10 million. FAU officials said it is the fifth largest one-time donation in the university's history.

The goal, Kelly said, is to create a destination for sports lovers and history buffs to come to learn about what was going on in history through a sports lens.

"It will make a really fascinating experience of American history," he said. "We are going to display it in a way that will attract people from all over."

Fogelman said he began collecting sports memorabilia about 50 years ago because of his love of sports.

His first item was a team signed football by the 1972 undefeated Miami Dolphins. The most meaningful piece in the collection is actually two, Babe Ruth's first and last New York Yankee uniform.

He said he selected FAU as the place to house his collection because he believes it is the best location to share the history and importance of sports to American society.

"Creating an exhibit to display this collection is a way for us to protect our history; it is a living, breathing account of our country's history, America's Pastime and other sports told through artifacts, my own personal stories and the stories of my friends," Fogelman said. "If we forget our history we cannot serve as good stewards of our future. FAU understands how to display this collection so it edu-



Former owner of Kansas City Royals Avron Fogelman wears his World Series ring. Photo courtesy of O'Connell & Goldberg Public Relations.

cates and inspires as many people as possible."

President Kelly said the exhibit will serve the university's academic programs including MBA Sports Management. Space will be allocated for lectures and post-tour discussions, and the museum will be a free attraction for locals, tourists and sports aficionados.

"Securing this collection is a point of pride for our university," Kelly said. "Avron's passion for sports, coupled with his lifelong dedication to education are evident through this generous donation. His desire to bring sports history to life will manifest through our plans for academic integration and community engagement."

The museum will offer visitors a visual progression of American sports alongside vignettes of the country's growth,

providing historical context and opportunities for intergenerational connections.

Kelly recalled the first time Fogelman brought up his collection. Kelly said Fogelman was discussing the history of baseball and its influence on American history with a faculty member.

"I got intrigued by it," Kelly said of how Fogelman connected baseball and history.

When he went to see the collection, he said he expected the usual items, signed cards, some bats and uniforms. But he said he was blown away by the items Fogelman obtained.

"It was beyond description," Kelly said. "It was an unbelievable history lesson."

Some highlights of the memorabilia on display will include:



A look at some of the signed baseballs that will be on display at FAU by the end of the year in a new donated exhibit. Photo courtesy of O'Connell & Goldberg Public Relations.

- The 13 original rules of basketball by James Naismith
- Babe Ruth's pinstripe uniform pants worn on his first day as a New York Yankee in 1921
- Joe DiMaggio's 1936 rookie uniform
- Roger Maris' uniform worn in 1961 when he broke the single season home run record
- Hank Aaron's uniform worn in 1974 when he broke the career home run record
- 1985 Kansas City Royals World Series Trophy
- Final cleats worn by football great Jim Thorpe
- Football signed by the undefeated 1972 Miami Dolphins
- The 1969 Ryder Cup Trophy
- Baseballs signed by sports legends, entertainers, politicians and historical figures ■

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Florida Trend

THE MAGAZINE OF FLORIDA BUSINESS

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History of Sports

If you need to brush up on the rules for basketball, Florida Atlantic University can help you — with a set with notes penned by James Naismith.

The rules, and the uniform pants Babe Ruth wore on his first day as a Yankee, the uniform Hank Aaron wore the day he broke Ruth's home-run record and another 559 pieces of sports memorabilia will be housed in December at a new FAU museum. The Fogelman Sports Museum originated after Boca Raton resident and former Kansas City Royals owner Avron B. Fogelman gave the school his sports collection and \$1.8 million to build and staff a 3,500-sq.-ft. home for it.

"It is a living, breathing account of our country's history, America's pastime and other sports told through artifacts, my own personal stories and the stories of my friends," Fogelman said in a news release. — *Mike Vogel*



Avron Fogelman holds a baseball signed by Martin Luther King Jr.