

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2022-1063

TITLE: Resolution Advocating for Expanded Hybrid Parking Decals to Address Growing Concerns for Student Parking on the University of Florida Campus

AUTHOR(S): Senator Cassie Urbenz, Senator John Rassel, Senator Joaquin Rafael Cecilia Marcelino, Senator Jonathan Chance Stephens

SPONSORS: Minority Party Leader Faith Corbett, Deputy Minority Party Leader Gabriela Montes. Senator Anjali Natarajan, Senator Evan E. Rafanan, Senator Anaum Virani, Senator Hana Ali, Senator Oscar Santiago Pere, Senator Nathan McGinnis, Senator Navya Nair, Senator Connor Panish

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Transportation and Parking Services distributes and assigns specific decals to allow for students, faculty, and staff the proper permission to park in certain designated areas on the University of Florida campus; however, such does not guarantee a parking space [1]; and,

WHEREAS, University of Florida students are assigned particular decal types with particular designated areas, each costing the same amount: Green (graduate and professional, off-campus); Park & Ride (undergraduate, off-campus); Red 1 (on-campus students with 50 or more credit hours); Red 3 (the same as aforementioned but have fewer than 50 credit hours); Brown 2 (students living in Corry, Maguire, and University Village Family Housing Village); Brown 3 (students living in Diamond Family Housing Village); Disabled Student; and Motorcycle/Scooter permits [2]; and,

WHEREAS, University of Florida Faculty and Staff are assigned particular decal types with wider variety of permissible places to park than that of student decals but have non-uniform pricing: Gold Official Gated (allowed to any specially designated faculty/staff lot and any lot also designated to students); Silver Gated (designated area); Official Business (allowed any lot also available to students and faculty/staff); Orange (allowed specially designated orange lot, green, and “any permit”, and are available to full time OPS employers and non-student part-time OPS employees in addition to faculty and staff); Blue (allowed special blue designated areas, green, and “any permit”); Medical Resident (allowed orange lots and any student lot); Staff Commuter (allowed green, excluding Garage VII and XIV) and “any permit” lots, and are

available to full time OPS employers and non-student part-time OPS employees in addition to faculty and staff); Disabled Employee; Carpool (allowed specific “carpool” areas and are allowed orange, blue, green, and “any permit” lots after 9:30 am); and Motorcycle/Scooter decals [3]; and,

WHEREAS, on March 12th, 2022, Student Body President Lauren Lemasters and Former Student Body President Cooper Brown issued a statement regarding a TAPS decision to have 40 Red 3 parking spots from Norman Garage be converted to Orange, including that “students...already face tremendous restrictions and continued reduction in their ability to park near where they live and take classes” and that “this decision which was made without any student input whatsoever” [4]; and,

WHEREAS, Hybrid Parking Decal Areas, as defined for the purposes of this resolution, are defined as areas which accommodate multiple color designations (such as already existing Green/Brown, Orange/Blue, and “any Decal except” areas); and,

WHEREAS, hybridizing decal areas would allow parking to remain within State law limiting the amount of spots on-campus while maximizing those able to utilize them, especially in cases like Green and Orange where both constituencies often have similar schedules; and,

WHEREAS, hybridization of decal parking spots can be done throughout the lot or through a designated portion of the lot which is at the discretion of the University of Florida Transportation and Parking Services department; and,

WHEREAS, there are plans to further decrease Red One and Red Three parking on campus, specifically in the following ways: potentially converting 564 Red Three decal spaces near Flavet Field to other decal types such as graduate student and employee, considering the transitioning Red One decal spaces at Murphee to employee parking, and converting Orange and student resident Red lots inside the campus core to gated Silver/Gold lots [5]; and,

WHEREAS, Garage XI, a hybrid parking area, has increased and is expected to continue to increase in utilization over the next few years and there are no pertinent plans to increase garage parking on Park & Ride lots [5]

WHEREAS, there are only 2 Park & Ride lots located on university campus, which are located

on Hull Road and by Southwest Recreation Center [7]; and,

WHEREAS, off campus students have communicated their concerns about Park & Ride lots, specifically inaccessibility and cost to practically park equidistant from their apartment complexes [8]; and,

WHEREAS, there has been a lack of communication on the solution for Park & Ride accessibility being dependent upon a garage that has yet to be built; and,

WHEREAS, the current parking plan is focused on tech usage, with license plates serving as decals, lowering the burden on [6]; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the necessity of keeping students in mind when navigating the balance of parking designation distribution during this time; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate requests that no further student parking be removed within the next five years without providing more comprehensive forum-style events for students and other stakeholders to provide perspectives; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate advocates for the exploration of expansions to hybrid parking decal locations on-campus to relieve the strain on those with Red 1 & 3, Green, and Park & Ride designations.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President Kent Fuchs, Transportation and Parking Services Senior Director Scott Fox.

[1] - <https://taps.ufl.edu/permits/>

[2] - <https://taps.ufl.edu/permits/student-permits/>

[3] - <https://taps.ufl.edu/permits/faculty-staff-permits/>

[4] - https://www.instagram.com/p/CbAullzOcFY/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

[5] - <https://taps.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/TransportationStrategicPlan.pdf>

[6] - <https://taps.ufl.edu/2022/08/08/parking-decals-transitions-to-virtual-parking-permits/>

[7] - <https://taps.ufl.edu/parking-info/parking-map/>

[8] - <https://www.alligator.org/article/2021/09/uf-changes-two-park-and-ride-lots>