

Student Senate

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STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1104

TITLE: Resolution to Enforce Bikers and Scooters to Walk Through Turlington

AUTHOR(S): Senator Gabe Vargas

SPONSOR(S):

WHEREAS, It is come to the attention of Senators through campaigning, Candor, and other methods of communication, that biking and scootering through Turlington during class hours is disruptive and dangerous for walking pedestrians; and,

WHEREAS, Turlington Plaza, and the adjacent areas, are heavily used areas with high foot traffic. Many of the 1000 student organizations on campus actively table in this area everyday, people walk to and from class going through this area at least a few times a week, campus admissions tours across many departments walk through this area, and peaceful demonstrations and presentations are held in this area [1]; and,

WHEREAS, on top of walkers, bikers, individuals on scooters, and individuals on other modes of non-walking transportation move through Turlington many hours through a given day, posing a risk for pedestrians not using non-walking transportation; and,

WHEREAS, there needs to be a need for enforcement of "walking only" through Turlington Plaza; and,

WHEREAS, there needs to be measures in place to ensure that all students, organization members, prospective students, parents, staff and faculty, and the general public feel safe while walking through the plaza; and,

WHEREAS, various articles and studies have revealed that pedestrians often feel unsafe when cyclists, skateboarders, and other non-walking modes of transportation are using vehicles in pedestrian-heavy, walking areas [2]; and,

WHEREAS, there is much support among the student body, staff, and faculty among addressing this issue. During campaign, on Candor, in class discussions, and on various social media platforms, many groups advocated for making Turlington Plaza a "walking only" area; and,

WHEREAS, making Turlington Plaza a "walking only" area would promote student safety and well being, especially during heavily used periods during class switches and transition periods; then,

An Equal Opportunity Institution 2024-1104

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes a need for student safety on campus to be addressed in a fundamental way.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes an overwhelming urge to put up signage and enforce "walking only" policies in Turlington Plaza.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages UFPD, Campus Safety Partners, and UF Facilities Services to promote and ensure that a "walking only" zone is enforced in Turlington Plaza, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of students within this designated area on campus.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida Police Department and UF Department of Emergency Management, UF Division of Public Safety, UF Facilities Services, Dr. Heather White, Vice President of Student Life, Melissa Curry, Vice President for Human Resources

[1] https://www.alligator.org/article/2022/07/turlington?ct=content_open&cv=cbox_latest

[2] https://www.npr.org/2016/10/16/496865680/6-things-you-need-to-know-about-cycling-on-the-sidewalk

ohn Brinkman

Senate President