

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1166**

**TITLE: A Resolution Advocating for a More Lenient TAPS Citation Amnesty Program**

**AUTHOR(S): Senator Hunter Monson**

**SPONSOR(S):**

**WHEREAS**, many students encounter the current issue of receiving citation(s) when parking on campus whether that be for a class that requires commuting, visiting student(s) who live(s) on campus, or going to Southwest Rec; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida presently has a total of four parking garages within a half mile to the highly populated areas of campus, only two of which have Red 1 or Red 3 decal parking availability [1][3][7]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the number of these spots available only to on-campus students are located at Garage VIII (Norman Garage) & Garage V, which creates severe scarcity for parking availability as well as disregarding any spots for commuting students [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, citation rates vary depending on how many have been accumulated, but the current policy generally charges offenders based charge is \$35 & occurs after two warning citations [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, as stated within 3.006 7a (i), any individual “wishing to contest a citation, suspension or Impoundment must complete an online statement of appeal on the TAPS website within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of issuance, or otherwise forfeit the right to appeal,” giving an extremely short period for individuals to properly appeal their citations [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, additionally, as stated within 3.006 IV. (h), any “vehicle(s) parked overtime at any time limited parking space may receive a citation at the time the violation is identified and may receive another citation in the same day if the Vehicle remains in the same space more than two (2) hours from the time of issuance of the first citation” [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, in the event an owner accumulates over three unpaid citations, their vehicles may be impounded &/or booted upon the discretion of any attendant [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, [explanation of the core of your resolution]; and,

**WHEREAS**, *Student Senate Bill 2024-1111 Resolution Petitioning for a Lower Base Price and Easier Appeal Process for Parking Citations* was passed unanimously by the University of Florida Student Senate, demonstrating unified support for citation & appeal reform [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, it was recorded from 2019-2020, the University of Florida issued parking fines of nearly \$4.7 million over that time span [5]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the university's inability to recognize student financial implications from the mass-collection of parking citations demonstrates a lack of comprehensiveness of the fact that students who must commute to certain areas of campus suffer from a lack of parking availability in close proximity to those locations; and,

**WHEREAS**, with a stated goal that "students would find parking on campus so they could save time every day they came on to campus," students should not have to fear that they will be charged \$35 every single time that they would have to commute on campus [6]; and,

**WHEREAS**, rather than two warning citations, a more friendly citation amnesty program would factor in student financial implications & demonstrate a greater understanding of the lack of Red 1 & Red 3 parking [7]; and,

**WHEREAS**, amnesty programs in the context of parking citations pertain to reducing punitive measures when an individual violates a particular regulation or civil statute [8][9]; and,

**WHEREAS**, additionally, parking citation amnesty programs "attempt to correct harsh, unfair policies by following them up with policies that may seem even more unfair to responsible, law-abiding drivers," which is much the case for many of the drivers who park on campus & receive citations [9]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the implementation of three parking citation warnings that reset every semester should be immediately introduced in the Spring 2024 semester, which shows a unified understanding of the extreme lack of parking availability for students, faculty, & visitors who must commute to the heart of campus; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the benefits behind amnesty programs for undergraduate students & the financial punitiveness that result from outstanding parking citations; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate understands that by offering amnesty programs, individuals who may have accumulated multiple parking citations are more likely to pay off their outstanding fines and fees; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate requests that the University of Florida Transportation & Parking Services implement a more forgiving parking citation amnesty program that resets after every semester.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President Ben Sasse, Provost Scott Angle, and Interim Director of TAPS Lynda Reinhart, Associate Director for the Center for Instructional Technology and Training Kimbley Standifer, Transportation Manager Jeremiah Mcinnis, TAPS Associate Director Ronald Fuller, Associate Vice President for Business Affairs Brandi Renton*

[1] <https://taps.ufl.edu/parking-info/citations/>

[2] <https://policy.ufl.edu/regulation/3-006/>

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

[4] <https://sg.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/SSB-2024-1111-Resolution-Petitioning-for-a-Lower-Base-Price-and-Easier-Appeal-Process-for-Parking-Citations.pdf>

[5] <https://www.miamiherald.com/sports/college/sec/university-of-florida/article260809837.html>


[6] <https://www.gainesville.com/story/news/education/campus/2023/07/07/uf-soon-will-ticket-uf-owned-vehicles-that-are-illegally-parked/70383434007/>

[7]

[https://gis.ufl.edu/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=41b9b845fda046fba088834c1875310a&error=Invalid\\_Signin&error\\_description=Unable%20to%20sign%20in%2C%20logins%20are%20by%20invitation%20only.%20Please%20contact%20the%20administrator%20of%20this%20web%20site%20to%20access%20this%20site.%20IdpUsername%3A%20%27huntermonson%27%20Username%3A%20%27huntermonson%27&state=%7B%22portalUrl%22%3A%22https%3A%2F%2Fgis.ufl.edu%2Fportal%22%2C%22uid%22%3A%2203DyiaxSrjxlroho4sf1nvxYV7gZRWyJU-jwMVP6aG4%22%7D](https://gis.ufl.edu/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=41b9b845fda046fba088834c1875310a&error=Invalid_Signin&error_description=Unable%20to%20sign%20in%2C%20logins%20are%20by%20invitation%20only.%20Please%20contact%20the%20administrator%20of%20this%20web%20site%20to%20access%20this%20site.%20IdpUsername%3A%20%27huntermonson%27%20Username%3A%20%27huntermonson%27&state=%7B%22portalUrl%22%3A%22https%3A%2F%2Fgis.ufl.edu%2Fportal%22%2C%22uid%22%3A%2203DyiaxSrjxlroho4sf1nvxYV7gZRWyJU-jwMVP6aG4%22%7D)

[8] <https://www.lawinsider.com/dictionary/amnesty-program>

[9] <https://business.time.com/2012/06/06/sometimes-theres-a-reward-for-not-paying-off-parking-traffic-tickets/>



3/1/2024

John Brinkman  
Senate President

Date