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S.R.S. 2012-2013/16

A Resolution -

A Resolution to be known as "Cite and Release" calling for the city to implement a policy of issuing citations without necessarily holding those cited in a city or county jail for certain non-violent offenses.

WHEREAS:

State lawmakers passed House Bill 2391 in 2007 creating the opportunity for law enforcement agencies in the state to conserve resources by implementing a "Cite and Release" policy for seven Class A and B misdemeanor offenses including possession of marijuana up to four ounces; criminal mischief where damages are up to \$500; theft of service up to \$500; theft up to \$500; providing contraband to someone in jail; and driving with an invalid license that will not require transporting and booking the offender into jail; and

WHEREAS:

the Texas State University Police Department is the only law enforcement agency in Hays County that does not currently implement the "Cite and Release" policy; and

WHEREAS: implementation of the "Cite and Release" policy would relieve residents of Hays County of the economic burden associated with the costs of pre-conviction jail time for non-violent offenders (some studies estimate the cost of an arrest at approximately \$350), while also protecting student academics from any adverse affects related to spending time in jail (missing classes or tests); and

WHEREAS: allowing officers to focus on violent crimes, the policy would put University Police Department officers in a better position to keep students safe and deal with the frequent threat of assaults here on campus; and

WHEREAS: it is imperative that the Texas State University Police Department's law enforcement resources are being effectively utilized; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Texas State University Police Department join the Hays County Sheriff's Department, San Marcos Police Department, Buda Police Department, and Kyle Police Department in the implementation of "Cite and Release," thereby focusing law enforcement resources on combating serious crimes and keeping law

enforcement officers on the streets to deal with issues that pose an actual threat to the community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Texas State University Police Department take the necessary steps in creating a "Cite and Release" ticket similar to the one in use by the San Marcos Police Department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That, if passed, this bill be forwarded to ASG Advisor Kathy Weiser, Dean of Students Dr. Margarita Arellano, Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Joanne Smith, University Police Chief Ralph Meyer, and President Dr. Denise Trauth.