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18 **A Resolution -**

19 To Be Entitled - "The Campus Safety Review Resolution" calling
20 on Texas State University administration to review the
21 operational status of security cameras and emergency phones, and
22 to revise procedures by which the placement of future cameras
23 and emergency phones are determined

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25 **WHEREAS:** As the recognized forum for student opinion on the
26 Texas State University campus, Student Government has a duty to
27 act in the best interests of students and prioritize issues
28 important to the student body and;

29 **WHEREAS:** One of the most critical issues facing students
30 currently is the issue of campus safety, notably an increase in
31 crime in the San Marcos community and a lack of transparency on
32 part of the administration about the number of crimes committed
33 on campus and the operational status of services designed to
34 address student safety needs and;

35 **WHEREAS:** According to the San Marcos Crime Rate Report, both
36 property crime and violent crime have been on the overall uptick
37 for the past 18 years and;

38 **WHEREAS:** Though increases in the absolute number of crimes can
39 be partially attributed to growth, the Texas State University
40 community faces unique challenges. According to College Factual
41 Texas State University reported 385 safety-related incidents
42 involving students on or near campus or other properties
43 affiliated with the university in 2017. Out of the 2,795
44 colleges and universities that reported crime and safety data,
45 2,550 reported fewer incidents than this and;

46 **WHEREAS:** Following revelations from the Texas Tribune that Texas
47 State University misrepresented campus crime statistics, in
48 violation of the Clery Act, another article on October 7th of
49 2019 revealed that some of the surveillance cameras and
50 emergency phones on campus were broken and;

51 **WHEREAS:** These systems are put in place to enhance student
52 safety. Failing to keep them in service is not only a waste of
53 money used to create them, it is a disservice to students.
54 Cameras can provide valuable video evidence of crimes and
55 emergency phones can provide help to students at critical times
56 and;

57 **WHEREAS:** As of now, Texas State University's mechanisms for
58 reviewing and maintaining the operational status of these
59 systems is inadequate. Although university officials now believe
60 that the majority of security technology is operational, the
61 Texas Tribune reported that there appears to be no documentation
62 of the equipment's performance and;

63 **WHEREAS:** To provide a safer campus and regain the trust of the
64 students, Texas State University must improve how it handles the
65 management of security technology therefore;

66 **BE IT RESOLVED:** That Student Government hereby demands that
67 Texas State University Finance and Support Services, in
68 collaboration with the University Police Department, conduct a
69 comprehensive review of the operational status of security
70 technology on campus. This must include a test of all cameras
71 and emergency phones on campus, and a report on the status of
72 these systems made available to the public. This report must
73 include:

74 a) The number of cameras and emergency phones, out of the
75 total number of each on campus, that are operational

76 b) A timeline for repairing any broken systems, as well as an
77 outline of the resources needed to make the necessary
78 repairs and how these will be allocated

79 **BE IT RESOLVED:** If any data has been collected previously, but
80 not made available to the public, then that information is to be
81 released to the student body.

82 **BE IT RESOLVED:** That on advice of the University Police
83 Department and any relevant oversight entities, this report may
84 omit certain info such as the exact location of all cameras that
85 would be useful for would be criminals, provided that at least
86 some of the people who have oversight and access to this data
87 and relevant procedures are students.

88 **BE IT RESOLVED:** This report be conducted and released every
89 academic year, on a timetable to be determined by relevant
90 oversight authorities and made available to Student Government
91 and the Public.

92 **BE IT RESOLVED:** That for the future placement of any new cameras
93 or emergency phones on campus, Texas State University should
94 abide by the following procedure: When 2 or more crimes have
95 occurred within a single month at a single, specific,
96 identifiable location (i.e. building, parking garage, etc.),
97 Texas State University must review the placement of lighting,
98 cameras, and emergency phones in that location. If it is found
99 that inadequacies are present in the degree to which these
100 things are available, then one or all of these items must be
101 updated. If no changes are made justification must be presented
102 as to why. This information must be made available in public
103 annual reports following the same procedures as reports on the
104 operational status of existing security technology.

105 **BE IT RESOLVED:** That Finance and Support Services and UPD are to
106 provide a procedure for implementation within two months of the
107 passage of this legislation.

108 **BE IT RESOLVED:** That Texas State University should establish and
109 implement a strict timeline to adhere to when installing new
110 cameras or emergency phones or repairing ones found to be
111 defunct as part of the comprehensive review. In an effort to
112 ensure all safety features on campus are in working order at all
113 times and to maintain accountability, this timeline should be
114 made available to the student body, faculty and staff.

115 **BE IT RESOLVED:** That upon passage this piece of legislation be
116 forwarded to the Student Body President for further action