

**SENATE RESOLUTION
S.R. F16-003**

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TITLE	Resolution in Opposing the Riverside City Council’s Action toward Homelessness and Housing Insecurity
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WHEREAS, on Tuesday, October 4th, 2016, the Riverside City Council approved and adopted a blanket prohibition on camping and storing personal items on sidewalks, streets, and parks within the city; and

WHEREAS, the ordinance states, “Camping includes, but is not limited to, use of public streets or public property for living accommodations or habitation purposes such as sleeping or laying down bedding, storing property, etc.” and

WHEREAS, as a result, the passed ordinance disproportionately affects the homeless population of Riverside, who often have no choice but to store their items and sleep on sidewalks, streets and parks; and

WHEREAS, several homeless shelters in Riverside have been closed down due to the lack of funding and resources; and

WHEREAS, these are services that the people of Riverside depend upon, and the lack of these accessible spaces maps directly onto their desperate resort of sleeping on the streets, sidewalks and parks; and

WHEREAS, students are at a heightened vulnerability for homelessness, as a California State University study showed that one in ten students struggle with homelessness and housing insecurity¹; and

WHEREAS, although no comprehensive study on housing insecurity for University of California has been conducted and released, we know from trends in the CSU that homelessness is an issue for college students in California; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance marks a clear failure of the city of Riverside to adequately acknowledge the issue of homelessness and housing insecurity, prevailing specifically on local college campuses, and derive positive solutions that would benefit the city and the students living within them; and

¹ <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-cal-state-homelessness-20160620-snap-story.html>

WHEREAS, ordinances such as this place the burden on the residents struggling with housing insecurity, and is a convenient deterring of responsibility from the City Council, whose job is to care for the people of Riverside; and

WHEREAS, although homelessness is an issue that should be discussed, it is not the place of the City Council to criminalize homelessness without additionally advocating for additional shelters or affordable housing to support Riverside's homeless population; Now, therefore let it be,

RESOLVED, That the Associated Students of University of California, Riverside

- (1) Publically condemn the aforementioned ordinance and the city's actions toward the homeless population; and
- (2) Recommend that the Riverside City Council reject the ordinance banning public camping and storage of personal items; and
- (3) Express a commitment to collaborating with the Riverside City Council in crafting student-friendly and fair policies on housing and homelessness; and
- (4) Recommend that resources spent on enforcing these ordinances ought to be reinvested into creating more shelters and affordable housing options for Riverside residents; and
- (5) Make a public stance of support toward advocating, not criminalizing, the homeless population.

INTRODUCED ON - October 31, 2016

COMMITTEE APPROVED ON - October 31, 2016

VOTE COUNT - 5-0-1

SENATE APPROVED ON - November 9, 2016

VOTE COUNT - 12-0-0