Texas A&M University
Graduate and Professional Student Council
General Assembly
2017-2018 Session

Resolution Thanking the Transportation Services and University Police Department for Enforcing the Handicap Parking Regulations

Presented by Amit Ghoshal on April 3, 2018

Whereas: The Graduate and Professional Student Council exists to govern and to serve as the voice of all graduate and professional students at Texas A&M University.

Whereas: Federal regulations stipulate that all federal and state vehicular parking lots must provide accessible parking spaces to the disabled as mandated by the American Disability Act (ADA), 1990 to ensure equal rights to all Americans with disabilities.

Whereas: The accessible parking spaces make it possible for people with disabilities to get into and out of a vehicle, and around it. ADA sign regulations mandate the parking spots be specially marked with the international accessibility symbol.

Whereas: The ADA stipulation uses a practical approach of earmarking the parking spot on the shortest accessible travel route from the point of parking to the building entrance. To ensure that the physically challenged commuters get the desired benefits, strict monitoring and steep penalties are mandated for parking violators.

Whereas: Similar to other state institutions of higher education, Texas A&M University has earmarked disabled parking spaces for granting easy access to its disabled students, staff and visitors. To ensure that the parking benefits reach the intended population, enforcements are mandatory. Steep penalties act as deterrents for the physically able to misuse the easy access of the reserved parking spots.

Whereas: Though Texas A&M University Transportation Services had the earmarked spaces, enforcement was a challenge due to the lack of access of the handicap placard holders’ information, protected by HIPPA regulations. Such information is however available to the University Police Department (UPD) for enforcement purposes. Due to the restricted availability of the UPD for such time consuming enforcements, the disabled reserved spots were flagrantly misused by able bodied students while remaining inaccessible to the deserving disabled population.

Whereas: Discussions with Texas A&M University Transportation Services by GPSC, finally led to the coordination between them and the UPD leading to the handicap-parking violation enforcements. While the additional financial burdens
placed on the violators by way of citations will act as deterrents, it will also provide financial incentives to the transportation services and the university.

And

Whereas:

The coordination between the TAMU Transportation Services and UPD will resolve parking issues for the physically disabled university students, staff, and visitors.

Let it be Resolved:

The Graduate and Professional Student Council at Texas A&M University wants to thank the TAMU Transportation Services and the UPD for agreeing to the GPSC recommendations of enforcing the handicapped parking rules which will alleviate the parking problems of the physically handicapped students, staff, and visitors.

Let it be

Further Resolved:

A copy of this resolution shall be posted and delivered to:

Chief J. Michael Ragan  
*Chief, Texas A&M University Police Department*

Peter W. Lange,  
*Associate Vice President, Transportation Services*

Melissa Maraj  
*Marketing & Communication, Transportation Services*

Dr. Mark Zoran  
*Assistant Associate Provost for Graduate & Professional Studies of Texas A&M University*

Mr. Michael K. Young  
*President of Texas A&M University*

Matthew Etchells  
*President of the Graduate and Professional Student Council*

Jamie Wangler  
*Advisor to the Graduate and Professional Student Council*

Stefanie Baker  
*Advisor to the Graduate and Professional Student Council*

Dr. Anne Reber  
*Dean of Student Life of Texas A&M University*

Amy Sharp  
*Student Body President*

Mitch Parker  
*Speaker for the Student Senate*

Amit Ghoshal  
*Author of resolution*

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**Action Taken:** Passed  
**Certified By:** C. Zane Sheehan  
**Date:** 5/8/2018  
**Duly Approved By:** Matthew J. Etchells