A RESOLUTION ON BICYCLE POLICY REFORM

WHEREAS many Southern Methodist University students choose to utilize non-motorized forms of wheeled transportation on the Dallas campus of Southern Methodist University, and

CONSIDERING that students who choose to utilize such forms of transportation face issues of adequate storage and the potential for theft and defacement, as well as contribute to the levels of individual safety to pedestrians and motorists throughout the campus, and

CONSIDERING the location of new dormitory housing, including the commons of Armstrong, Crum, Kathy Crow, Loyd, and Ware, being a great distance from academic buildings and schools, requires that many students utilize forms of wheeled transportation to arrive at classroom facilities in a timely manner, and

NOTING the increase in the number of privately-owned wheeled vehicles, including bicycles, since the opening of these newest dormitory housing facilities, and the increased opportunities for bicycle collisions as a result, and

CONSIDERING that the Southern Methodist University main campus in Dallas does not currently have any dedicated pathways or thoroughfares for individuals utilizing human-powered wheeled vehicles (bicycles, skateboards, unicycles, etc.), and

NOTING that the Southern Methodist University Police Department has published rules and regulations for safety involving the operation of individual bicycles on University grounds, and

NOTING that the content of such rules and regulations prohibit persons from riding their bicycles on "any campus lawn or other areas where pedestrians may walk", which would include standard sidewalks and equivalent walking paths, and
ACKNOWLEDGING that operating human-propelled wheeled vehicles on roadways designed for motor vehicles poses a tremendous risk to both drivers and riders, and

NOTING that the continued increase in students utilizing non-motorized wheeled transportation will only exacerbate this issue in the coming years, and

ACKNOWLEDGING that Southern Methodist University has been considering these facts in the addition of many new bicycle racks on campus to serve this expanding population of individuals, especially

NOTING the recent addition of several new bicycle racks in close proximity to major University thoroughfares, as well as University-owned dormitory housing and their adequate use, recognizing the importance of such devices on campus, and

RECOGNIZING the lack of sufficient bicycle racks in vicinity of the Fondren Science Building, Heroy Hall, and the Dedman Life Sciences Building, some of the busiest buildings on campus and among the furthest from the new Residential Commons, and

ACKNOWLEDGING that many students choose to leave their bicycles on campus during winter and spring breaks, so as to provide themselves with the greatest possible convenience upon their return, and

NOTING the restrictions placed on students who own wheeled transportation devices, such as bicycles, prohibits students from storing their bicycles inside University-owned housing at all times and recommends that individuals store their bicycles in provided bike lockers for safe keeping for the duration of the students’ absence from campus during University-planned break periods, and

CONSIDERING the size and number of bike lockers provided by Southern Methodist University for use by its students is wholly inadequate for the vast and increasing number of bicycles in use across the main campus, and

FURTHER NOTING the common practice of bicycle theft and defacement on the campus of Southern Methodist University and the increased likelihood of such crimes during periods of diminished
student population, such as Fall, Winter, and Spring Breaks,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Southern Methodist University amend part (b) of the Community Standards for Residents to include an exception to allow for student residents to store their non-motorized wheeled vehicles within SMU-owned housing buildings during Winter and/or Spring breaks by permitting students to stow such vehicles in their rooms OR by providing a location within each residential commons for the purpose of safekeeping of such vehicles for the duration of the aforementioned periods, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Southern Methodist University place additional bicycle racks in close proximity to the Fondren Sciences Building in order to adequately store the bicycles of students while they utilize the nearby buildings, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Southern Methodist University consider the implementation of bicycle lanes and pathways on University-owned streets and promenade areas greater than 10 feet in width to segregate cyclists and operators of other non-motorized vehicles from motor vehicles and pedestrians in order to prevent unnecessary accidents involving cyclists and individuals utilizing other modes of transportation on University-owned roads, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Southern Methodist University enter into discussions with management within the Town of Highland Park to implement bicycle lanes on city-owned streets, such as Airline Road, Bush Avenue, and (a) portion(s) of SMU Boulevard to provide a safe byway for cyclists on city-owned avenues

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Lucci
Lyle Senator