

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SAFE PARKING

WHEREAS, UCLA has a significant amount of unhoused students, undergraduate and graduate, and many cannot afford either campus housing rents or off-campus housing rents.

WHEREAS, the average cost of rent in the Westwood neighborhood and surrounding areas is \$4,883 per month which places Westwood as the most expensive zip code to rent in California and the third most expensive zip code to rent in the nation.¹

WHEREAS, UCLA Undergraduate Students are only guaranteed three years of housing if they are traditional access students and one year of housing for transfer and are subject to differing rates based on the lottery system for housing. While UCLA on campus housing options may be slightly cheaper than the private alternative, the lack of availability leaves students vulnerable, and the lottery selected housing style may not be suitable for all students.

WHEREAS, due to methodological limitations of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's annual homeless count and the fact that the University of California has to date not attempted a comprehensive count of housing insecure students, the university cannot credibly claim that there are few students experiencing houselessness.

WHEREAS, a significant number of those students experiencing houselessness choose to sleep in their cars, mostly in places such as unsupervised city streets, where there are substantial threats to the safety and security of those students.

WHEREAS, on July 30th, 2019, the Los Angeles City Council renewed Municipal Code 85.02 through January 2020, extending restrictions which impose fines for vehicle dwelling on a majority of city streets in Westwood and Los Angeles while providing no signage to indicate what streets are off-limits for vehicle dwelling during what times.²

WHEREAS, Bruin Shelter only has the capacity to house 18 to 27 individuals per academic semester.³ Additionally, Bruin Shelter only accepts applicants who are between 18-24 which excludes the significant UCLA population of non-traditional students.⁴

WHEREAS, 14% of community college students experience houselessness, and half of the 33,000 community college students surveyed are housing insecure.⁵ Houselessness, especially when it stems from lack of affordable housing, is not solved through transferring to a UC, so

¹ <https://www.latimes.com/business/realestate/hot-property/la-fi-hp-expensive-rent-westwood-20180929-story.html>

² <https://dailybruin.com/2019/09/20/city-council-extends-restrictions-on-car-dwelling-potentially-harming-students/>

³ <https://www.businessinsider.com/ucla-shelter-college-student-homelessness-2017-4>

⁴ <https://newsletter.alumni.ucla.edu/connect/2016/may/bruin-shelter/default.htm>

⁵ <https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2017/03/a-striking-number-of-college-students-are-hungry-and-homeless/519678/>

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students who were housing insecure before coming to UCLA will most likely continue to be housing insecure after they have transferred.

WHEREAS, other UC campuses, including UC Santa Cruz, have passed resolutions to support Safe Parking Programs on their respective campuses

WHEREAS, Safe Parking programs have been launched in many different cities, including Santa Barbara, San Diego, Los Angeles, etc.

WHEREAS, we understand that this is merely a short-term solution towards the increasing housing insecurity and houselessness in California but this is an important step towards addressing the material, hygienic, and safety needs of at-risk students.

WHEREAS, Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz has encouraged UCLA to allow students experiencing houselessness to park and sleep on campus lots.⁶

WHEREAS, the Transportation and Safety Committee of the North Westwood Neighborhood Council recommended that “UCLA Transportation identify on-campus parking lots which could be opened for vehicle dwelling of verified enrolled UCLA students and supplied with necessary hygienic and safety infrastructure.”

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the USAC encourages UCLA Administration to formally comment on the issue of safe parking to validate the lack of resources for students experiencing houselessness.

THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USAC calls upon UCLA Transportation to acknowledge this problem and take steps to work with students to create a safe parking zone.

⁶ <https://dailybruin.com/2019/09/20/city-council-extends-restrictions-on-car-dwelling-potentially-harming-students/>