ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION
No. 23
Forty-Seventh Session

Author(s): Speaker Domke & Deputy Speaker Kreml

Sponsor(s):

First Reading: January 24, 2016

WHEREAS, The President of the Student Association has appointed Kevin Gordon to the Position of Elections Commissioner

WHEREAS, the Senate has the responsibility of approving this appointment

WHEREAS, Elections Commissioner shall oversee the 2016 spring elections in accordance to the rules set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws

WHEREAS, Kevin has served as the Elections Commissioner for the 2015 fall Senate elections

WHEREAS, The Elections Commissioner will have the ability to freely select a Deputy Elections Commissioner to assist with the elections process

Therefore, be it resolved by the students of Northern Illinois University represented in the Senate, that Kevin Gordon is officially appointed and confirmed to the position of Elections Commissioner.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

I hereby verify that the Student Association Senate has approved the following legislation in accordance with the rules and requirements set forth in the Student Association Constitution, Bylaws, and Senate Operating Rules and Procedures.

Bari Abdul, Clerk of the Senate

This legislation is now considered binding under the laws of the Student Association, given under my hand in DEKALB, ILLINOIS on the TWENTY-FOURTH day of JANUARY, TWO THOUSAND AND SIXTEEN.

SEAL:

Dillon J. Domke, Speaker of the Senate
ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION
No. 24
FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Author(s): Senator Brandner

Sponsor(s):

First Reading: January 24, 2016

Whereas, At the DeKalb City Council meeting on Monday the 25th of January 2016 the DeKalb City Council will debate City Council Ordinance 2016-002 and Ordinance 2016-003; and

Whereas, Ordinance 2016-002 states that a gathering of ten or more people where even one person were to meet listed criteria such as fighting, possession of cannabis, underage drinking, unlawful furnishing of alcohol, "engaging in the use of fighting words" that are likely to provoke violence, "loud and raucous noises" in a fashion that is "accompanied by boisterous, drunken behavior," or any conduct which is a breach of the peace would be grounds for the entire gathering to be dispersed by police order; and

Whereas, Ordinance 2016-003 further disallows what are deemed to be weapons at such gatherings including, but not limited to, baseball bats, any sign held up by a wooden beam similar to ones used at the SA Rally on the 29th of October 2015, or pepper spray; and

Whereas, If any gathering were deemed to be unlawful under the listed requirements penalties could be imposed upon the group and, if they were in possession of any "weapons" the ordinances suggest that additional penalties or fines could be imposed; and

Whereas, The language contained in these ordinances allow for an undue amount of scrutiny towards and control of the actions of the greater NIU Community; and

Whereas, in a DeKalb Chronicle article DeKalb Police Chief Gene Lowery cited the SA Rally as "an example of a situation that could have gotten out of hand," which shows the City of DeKalb's lack of faith or understanding towards the duties, responsibility, and mission of the Student Association; and

Whereas, The language provides no concession, leniency, or allowance towards gatherings on-campus, events of recognized student organizations off-campus, or even actions of the Student Association when the SA is carrying out its duties and responsibilities to the student body; and

Whereas, These ordinances would provide undue scrutiny specifically on the NIU sub-population involved in student organizations and Greek Life, with specific concern towards the ramifications of these ordinances on the off-campus population residing on Greek Row; and

Whereas, the Student Association Senate has the power to pass resolutions its opinion on behalf of the student body;
Therefore, be it resolved by the students of Northern Illinois University represented in the Senate, that it is the view of the student body, expressed by the Senate, that:

(1) DeKalb City Council ordinances 2016-002 and 2016-003, in their current state, unnecessarily restrict the freedom of NIU students to gather in a peaceful manner without fear of governmental interference;
(2) These ordinances should be modified in a way that gives additional leniency to assemblies on the NIU campus, as well as assemblies of recognized student organizations operating off-campus for the intended purpose of their organizations;
(3) The DeKalb City Council should provide consideration for amendments that would provide protections to the population of Greek Row which frequently gathers in groups of ten (10) or more persons and would be unnecessarily susceptible to scrutiny by the community;
(4) The proposed DeKalb City ordinances should be reviewed to further develop language that is currently vague or leaves determination of a violation to peace officer subjectivity;
(5) That the Student Association Senate is committed to the continued good-faith relationship between the DeKalb community and the NIU student population, and is dissatisfied by the lack of communication extended towards the Student Association regarding city ordinances which so heavily impact student life;
(6) The President of the Student Association, Nathan Lupstein, and the Director of Governmental Affairs, Kiran Gill, and the Senate Legislative Director, Bethan Vanover, should advocate for the opinions listed in this resolution to the City of DeKalb;
(7) The attached letter stands with the same force as this resolution and should be read and considered by both the Mayor of DeKalb as well as a DeKalb City Council.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

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I hereby verify that the Student Association Senate has approved the following legislation in accordance with the rules and requirements set forth in the Student Association Constitution, Bylaws, and Senate Operating Rules and Procedures.

Bari Abdul, Clerk of the Senate

This legislation is now considered binding under the laws of the Student Association, given under my hand in DEKALB, ILLINOIS on the TWENTY-FOURTH day of JANUARY, TWO THOUSAND AND SIXTEEN.