Resolution # 0506-09

Resolution to Oppose the City Council Amendments to the City Ordinance on Noise Violations

Purpose: To present a unified student opinion to the Columbia City Council expressing disagreement with the council’s recent amendment to the municipal code Section 16-259 Shouting, etc. section (b).

WHEREAS, the Graduate Professional Council represents the voice of the graduate and professional student body through its elected General Assembly and the Graduate Professional Council should be concerned about city government policies and local ordinances that affect students, and

WHEREAS, police officers should not be given authority to make arrests for noise violations without a formal complaint, and

WHEREAS, this amendment will give authority for police officers to unfairly infringe upon fundamental rights of students of the University of Missouri-Columbia, and

WHEREAS, this amendment was targeted at students, especially at students who live in densely student-populated areas, and City ordinances and legislative actions by the city council should not target students of the University of Missouri-Columbia, and

WHEREAS, prior to the recent amendment the city ordinance on noise violations was a fair system that balanced the general welfare of the city while respecting individual rights, and

WHEREAS, this amendment Chapter 16-259 section (b) reads: “Shouting, singing, whistling, or making other verbal utterances or noises between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. that is plainly audible at a distance of fifty (50) feet from the building, structure or outdoor area in which the person is located shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this section.”

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the General Assembly of the Graduate Professional Council recommends that Section 16-259 section (b) should be repealed from the City Codes by a legislative vote by the City Council.

EXECUTION CLAUSE: Upon passage, the GPC President will send a copy of this resolution to the appropriate Columbia city officials and will join GPC’s resolution with that of the undergraduate student equivalent (MSA) in order to demonstrate a unified student voice requesting the repeal of the proposed amendment of Section 16-259 section (b).

Respectfully Submitted,
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