



The Student Senate

Texas A&M University

S.R. 73-47

Texas A&M University
The Student Senate
73rd Session

Stop the R.O.O Resolution

"A resolution opposing the Restricted Occupancy Overlay Ordinance proposed by College Station City Council"

Action Taken: _____

PASSED

Certified By: _____

Zachary McCue
Speaker of the Senate

Date Passed: 03-31-2021

Introduced By: Carly Oldag, Community Relations Chair, COALS Caucus
Alexia Hernandez, Liberal Arts Caucus

Sponsored By: Mikayla Nasis, On Campus Caucus
Sofia Chunga Pizarro, Off-Campus Caucus
Yovanka Gonzalez, Mays Business Caucus
Victor J Ferro, Engineering Caucus
Iman Ahmed, Diversity & Inclusion Chair, Off-Campus Caucus
Megha Viswanath, Off-Campus Caucus
Dylan Sione, Off-Campus Caucus

Whereas(1): The College Station City Council is proposing a Restricted Occupancy Overlay Ordinance (ROO), allowing **certain** single-family neighborhoods to limit the number of people who can live in a home together to no more than two unrelated individuals; and,

Whereas(2): This ordinance is being pushed by some residents in College Station who want to preserve neighborhood integrity and have concerns that houses are becoming overpopulated due to many Texas A&M students living together; and,

Whereas(3): College students are estimated to account for roughly half of College Station's population of 123,761¹; and,

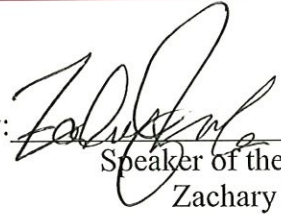
¹ <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/college-station-tx>



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- Whereas(4):** Only approximately 11,000 Aggies can live on-campus, requiring over 50,000 of our student population to live off-campus in College Station or surrounding areas; and²,
- Whereas(5):** This ordinance, if passed, would constrict students' options for housing and limit affordability; and,
- Whereas(6):** The Restricted Occupancy Overlay Ordinance is discriminatory to the many students that choose to live in single-family neighborhoods, who often are lower income students that cannot afford the high amenity apartment complexes that are prominent in College Station; and,
- Whereas(7):** Texas A&M University and its students contribute to College Station and the local community greatly by providing a significant amount of support in employment, contributing to local businesses, driving economic development, tourism, and through volunteering/community service, such as Big Event or the endless philanthropic work of hundreds of organizations that goes back into our community; and,
- Whereas(8):** The Restricted Occupancy Overlay Ordinance may increase tensions between Texas A&M students and their non-student neighbors, putting a greater stress on town-gown relations and dividing our community; and,
- Whereas(9):** Texas A&M University students may be perceived as easy targets because college students do not have legal protections against housing discrimination; and,
- Whereas(10):** According to the Texas A&M Department Head of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning, Dr. Shannon Van Zandt, the ROO can also affect lower income families³ that may have to double up with others to afford housing, and that such an ordinance is “discriminatory and has the potential for disparate impact on low-income households, including but not limited to students”¹.

² <https://reslife.tamu.edu/>

³ <https://www.kxxv.com/brazos/could-college-stations-roo-discriminate-against-low-income-families-and-students>

⁴

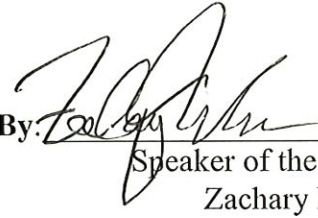
http://www.thebatt.com/news/a-m-professors-explain-what-roo-means-for-college-station/article_0ecf61b0-8b8d-11eb-95de-13ac244b2feb.html



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Therefore

Let it be

Resolved(1): The Texas A&M Student Senate urges the College Station City Council to discontinue the pursuit of the proposed Restricted Occupancy Overlay Ordinance (ROO); and,

Let it be

Further

Resolved(2): The Texas A&M Student Senate believes that the Restricted Occupancy Overlay Ordinance (ROO) serves as a tool of exclusion more so than an adequate solution to the problems it is attempting to address; and,

Let it be

Further

Resolved(3): The Texas A&M Student Senate believes that although resident complaints about behavior of groups of students may have a real basis, it is easy to stereotype and over-generalize the behaviors and livelihoods of all students at Texas A&M, making this issue much more complex than using a blanket restriction prohibiting an entire group of people as a solution; and,

Let it be

Further

Resolved(4): The Texas A&M Student Senate calls for the launch of a targeted marketing campaign to be conducted in collaboration with the Executive Cabinet to spread awareness within the Student Body regarding the ROO and how it can negatively impact students; and,

Let it be

Further

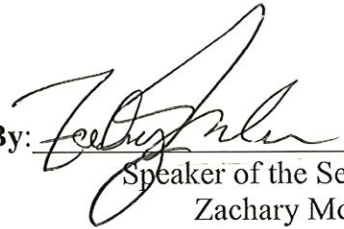
Resolved(5): The Texas A&M Student Senate wishes to work with the College Station City Council to find a solution to residency issues that protects the interests of homeowners and students alike; and,



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Let it be

Further

Resolved(5): A copy of this resolution be sent to:

College Station City Council

Mayor Karl Mooney

BCS Association of Realtors

College Station Association of Neighborhoods

The Battalion

The Eagle

Vice President of Municipal Affairs

Vice President of Communication