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S.R.24-25.07

1 **A Resolution-**

2 To be known as "A Resolution to Enhance Designated Free Speech
3 Area." Relating to the Texas State's Stallion Statue area need
4 to be improved for education and appearance purposes.

5
6 **WHEREAS:** The Student Government of Texas State University, on
7 behalf of the student body, recognizes the need to improve
8 awareness of First Amendment rights and university policies
9 regarding free speech on campus; and

10 **WHEREAS:** The Stallion Statue area at the center of campus,
11 designated as a free speech zone, currently lacks sufficient
12 signage to indicate its purpose and provide educational
13 information to students and visitors; and

14 **WHEREAS:** After the November 6th demonstrations, confusion among
15 students about the presence of controversial demonstrators
16 highlighted a lack of understanding about public universities'

17 obligations to uphold the First Amendment, including protections
18 for non-student speakers; and

19 **WHEREAS:** According to the Foundation of Individual Rights and
20 Expression, half of college students do not fully grasp what is
21 covered by free speech and are unaware that hate speech is
22 protected by the First Amendment. Many students are also fearful
23 to exercise their right to free speech on campus because they do
24 not fully grasp how the university interacts with Constitutional
25 Law; and

26 **WHEREAS:** Installing didactic plaques around the free speech area
27 about the First Amendment and the rights afforded to students and
28 other members of the public will promote improved understanding
29 and free speech education on campus; and

30 **WHEREAS:** These plaques should also include information about
31 university-specific policies (how tall signs can be, the limits of
32 amplified sound, etc.) to ensure students have the information
33 available to them to exercise their rights effectively; and

34 **WHEREAS:** Installing supplementary signage to fortify the area as
35 a free speech zone will enhance awareness on campus regarding the
36 space as being recognized by the university for this purpose; and

37 **BE IT RESOLVED:** To enhance student awareness and education
38 regarding their First Amendment rights, as well as to improve

39 understanding of Texas State policies on protests, demonstrations,
40 and free speech on campus, Student Government recommends that the
41 University install didactic plaques and additional signage related
42 to the First Amendment, university policies, and student rights,
43 particularly around the Stallion Statue; and

44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** This legislation be forwarded to the
45 Student Body President for further action.