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**Date of First Reading: [December 2nd, 2024]**

**S.R.24-24.05**

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**A Resolution**

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To be entitled "A Resolution to Partner with the University Police Department to Create Free Speech Education Trainings for Students and Emergency Responders" Relating to misinformation regarding free speech rights on campus.

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**WHEREAS:** On November 6th, a group of demonstrators incited an

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aggressive protest on campus. The group yielded signs that

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offended many individuals, inciting a counter- protest,

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mass online and televised media response, and physical

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and verbal attacks made by students. Although the rhetoric

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was acknowledged as harmful and hateful by the university

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president, the group acted within their First Amendment

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right and could not be removed for hateful speech or

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signage; and

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**WHEREAS:** There are many misconceptions regarding the limitations

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and freedoms of the First Amendment, as members of the

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community expressed counter-opinions, but did so in a way

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that violated the First Amendment rights of the initial

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demonstrators who had to be escorted off campus.

20 Therefore, misconceptions regarding the university's  
21 capacity to respond in these high-tense situations, as  
22 well as the actions that can be taken by protestors to  
23 stay in legal and university compliance- regarding issues  
24 such as signage, disruption, and violence- are crucial to  
25 being resolved to keep our constituents safe; and

26 **WHEREAS:** In a panel discussion about police-student relationships  
27 held in collaboration with UPD by the Texas State NAACP  
28 chapter, students expressed concerns about officer-  
29 student relationships and communication, as well as the  
30 ability to express opinions and file suggestions or  
31 objections; and

32 **BE IT ENACTED:** Trainings should be provided regularly to both  
33 students and responders to better educate individuals  
34 about First Amendment guidelines and emotional  
35 manipulation tactics, or "rage bait," that leads to  
36 violent expressions and actions. Additionally, the  
37 trainings should address common misconceptions and allow  
38 individuals from all backgrounds to ask questions or  
39 express comments about protests on campus. Trainings  
40 should be conducted in partnership with UPD, the Texas  
41 State University Expressive Activity Team, local law  
42 enforcement, student representatives, and external

43           representatives from interest groups to better inform the  
44           Texas State community about expression, to increase  
45           trust, encourage productive collaborations, and improve  
46           relationships; and

47   **BE IT FURTHER ENACTED:** This resolution be forwarded to the Student  
48           Body President for further action.