

passed Unanimously 9/23/2014



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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A.R. 16

In Support of Transportation Network Companies in Austin

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WHEREAS, The Student Government at The University of Texas at Austin serves as the official voice of students; and,

WHEREAS, many residents of Austin prefer or rely on modes of transportation other than their own private vehicle, including those who are not able to drive a car, those who choose to not own a car, and those who have been drinking and should not drive behind the wheel¹; and,

WHEREAS, particularly at times of peak demand, such as weekend nights and during festivals and special events, many Austinites do not have realistic alternatives to driving a personal vehicle¹; and,

WHEREAS, Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) are a recent innovation in transportation services that use an online-enabled application (app) or platform to connect passengers with drivers using a personal vehicle¹; and

WHEREAS, through smartphone technology, TNCs are able to be more responsive to meeting the needs of specific passengers, particularly with regard to wait time, and are also more responsive overall to fluctuations in demand¹; and,

WHEREAS, TNCs do not currently fit into the conventional transportation regulatory framework and are operating illegally in many US cities, including Austin¹; and,

WHEREAS, many students fit the category of not having an accessible vehicle in Austin; and,



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WHEREAS, TNCs offer greater affordability and convenience than the current cab system, resulting in decreased costs and increased flexibility for students; and,

WHEREAS, TNCs offer a paperless billing system, thus eliminating the requirement for students to carry around paper money that, if lost or stolen, could deny students proper transportation when needed; and,

WHEREAS, there is overwhelming public support for legalizing the services of Transportation Network Servicesⁱⁱ; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Student Government at The University of Texas at Austin believes that all students should have access to as many transportation options as possible; and therefore,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Student Government supports the legalization of Transportation Network Companies in Austin; and therefore,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Student Government calls upon the students and faculty to openly promote and support the use of TNCs; and therefore,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Student Government at The University of Texas at Austin kindly advises Austin City Council to take immediate action on this issue; and therefore,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Student Government holds student safety at high importance and asks Austin City Council that drivers of Transportation Network Companies to be held to high standards of accessibility and safety; and therefore,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to the offices of Lee Leffingwell, Mayor of the City of Austin; Cheryl Cole, Mayor Pro Tempore; Chris Riley, Austin City Council Place 1; Mike Martinez, Austin City Council Place 2; Kathie Tovo, Austin City Council Place 3; Laura Morrison, Austin City Council Place 4; Bill Spellman, Austin City Council Place 5; The Daily Texan; The Horn

ⁱ Austin City Council TNC Proposal

ⁱⁱ <http://www.dailytexanonline.com/2014/09/17/legalize-tncs-like-lyft-uber-but-responsibly-and-with-limits>