

A Resolution to Increase the Visibility of The Ohio State University Police While on Patrol

Francesco Migliore (for himself) introduced the following resolution to the Health and Safety Committee where it passed. Then, to the Steering Committee where it passed, and to the floor where it passed.

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Whereas the Undergraduate Student Government represents all undergraduate students at The Ohio State University; and

Whereas campus safety and crime prevention are top priorities for students, faculty, and staff at The Ohio State University; and

Whereas the Health and Safety Committee recognizes both the current need for enhanced campus safety measures and the complex perceptions surrounding police visibility; and

Whereas increasing the visibility of The Ohio State University Police Department (OSUPD) can foster a sense of safety, community engagement, and trust between law enforcement officers and the student body; and

Whereas the use of visible, continuously activated “cruise lights” on OSUPD vehicles can help differentiate university police from City of Columbus police vehicles, contributing to clearer recognition of campus law enforcement presence and reassuring students of their campus-specific patrol; and

Whereas research, such as the Routine Activity Theory¹, suggests that the visible presence of a “capable guardian” (such as patrolling officers) is a significant deterrent to criminal activity, supporting the importance of highly visible campus patrols in maintaining a secure environment; and

Whereas the successful use of cruise lights by university police at institutions like the Pennsylvania College of Technology² demonstrates a feasible model that OSUPD could implement to promote officer visibility and deter potential crime; and

1: [Cohen, Lawrence E., and Marcus K. Felson - Routine Activity Theory.pdf](#)

2: [Cruise lights are new feature on Penn College Police patrol vehicles | Pennsylvania College of Technology](#)

Whereas a proactive and transparent approach to safety by OSUPD aligns with the student body's request for increased campus engagement, reassurance, and a sense of protection.

Therefore, Let it Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government hereby expresses its formal support for enhancing the visibility of OSUPD patrol officers through the regular use of cruise lights on their police vehicles during campus patrol shifts; and

Let it Further Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government calls upon The Ohio State University administration to work in coordination with OSUPD to adopt this measure as part of their standard patrolling protocol, including the use of cruise lights to distinguish campus patrol vehicles and increase police visibility, thereby strengthening OSUPD's presence and accessibility to the campus community.

Floor Vote: Aye: 28 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 28

Bobby McAlpine
President

George Bernard
Speaker of the 57th General Assembly

Date Adopted: 11/13/2024