



Student Government

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

University of Colorado Student Government Legislative Council

April 17, 2014

80 LCR 10 Support for Affordable Housing

Sponsored by:

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A Resolution in support of Boulder City Council Addressing the Issue of Occupancy Limits

Resolution History

Currently, Boulder housing code section 9-8-5 ("Occupancy of Dwelling Units") prohibits shared households made up of more than three or four unrelated people. People living in "over-occupied" houses are breaking the law and are subject to eviction and legal penalties. Boulder is one of many municipalities across the country that maintain occupancy laws to deal with the noise and traffic that often accompanies neighborhoods of student housing.

The average cost to rent a one bedroom apartment in Boulder three years ago was \$1,016, and today it has increased to \$1,200. These increasing trends are consistent and do not show any signs of slowing down as Boulder continues to be a desirable place to live.

The cost of being a student in Boulder is already incredibly high. Coupled with the yearly increases in tuition rates, the high cost of living in Boulder has increased the cost of being a student in this community, and students live with multiple roommates in order to combat this high cost.

The City of Boulder's current law on occupancy was introduced and signed into law in 1981. At that time the population of Boulder was just over 75,000 people, today it is just over 100,000 and is expected to rise an additional 20,000 in the next twenty years. The student population alone has increased over 30% in this time and is expected to continue to increase.

Resolution Summary

University of Colorado Student Government expresses support not only for affordable housing in Boulder, but also advocates against measures that would make attending the University and living in Boulder inaccessible to students. CU Student Government encourages the Boulder City Council to work in collaboration with students and campus administration to creatively address issues regarding noise and traffic rather than limiting access to housing for students.

In a time where students are faced with high costs of living and high costs of attending the university, increasing occupancy limits is crucial for students. By making housing affordable and accessible to students, CU Boulder and the City will be a more desirable destination for young people and faculty.

Passage of this resolution will indicate to the members of City Council that there is a need for affordable housing in Boulder. As student leaders, we have a responsibility to fight for what will benefit our fellow students, and access to affordable and sustainable housing has a direct impact on the accessibility of our university to all students.

Should this resolution pass, its authors and sponsors pledge to publicize its benefits and support to the CU Board of Regents, our elected officials, and the public at large in their decision to support increasing occupancy limits for affordable housing in Boulder.

Whereas: CU Boulder students and CU Student Government support increased access to affordable housing in Boulder, Colorado;

Whereas: Current trends show that housing and renting prices in the city of Boulder, Colorado has been steadily increasing;

Whereas: The passage of this resolution has the potential to help the University of Colorado at Boulder be more accessible for all students and faculty;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the University of Colorado Student Government that:

Section 1: It is the view of CUSG that affordable housing will help improve access to higher education in the city of Boulder, Colorado. Therefore, we urge City Council to address this issue.

Section 2: CUSG advocates for (1) increasing the occupancy limits for unrelated people; (2) creating a straightforward, legal pathway for the creation of cooperative households; and (3) re-evaluating restrictions that prevent the creation of small secondary living units alongside single family homes throughout the city is an effective strategy in addressing the affordable housing needs of the University's faculty, students and staff.

Section 3: CUSG encourages City Council to continue to look for more affordable ways to live in the city of Boulder, Colorado and conduct a study on the access and affordability of student and CU community member housing.

Section 4: Upon passage, this resolution will be distributed to the student body, University staff,

Inter-Campus Student Forum, Board of Regents, CU-Boulder administration and media.

Section 5: This resolution shall take effect upon passage by the legislative council and upon either obtaining the signature of two Tri-Executives or the lapse of six days without action by the Tri-Executives.

Vote Count


04/17/2014	Passed on 1 st reading	Acclamation
04/24/2014	Amended Section 2	Acclamation
04/24/2014	Amended Section 3	Acclamation
04/24/2014	Passed on 2 nd reading	Acclamation




Chris Schaeferbauer
President of Student Affairs



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President of Internal Affairs



Marco Dorado
President of External Affairs

1. United States of America. Boulder Economic Council. Boulder Chamber. *Demographic Profile: Boulder, Colorado*. Boulder Chamber, Dec. 2011. Web. 16 Mar. 2014.

2. *Statistical Profile Supplement: University of Colorado, Boulder*. Rep. no. 3775. Office of Academic Planning, Mar. 1983. Web. 16 Mar. 2014.

3. The City of Boulder Revised B.R.C. 1981, 9-8-5 "Occupancy of Dwelling Units".

4. "Boulder Real Estate Overview." *Trulia*. TRLA, 5 Mar. 2014. Web. 16 Mar. 2014.
<http://www.trulia.com/real_estate/Boulder-Colorado/>.

