A Resolution Supporting an Increase in Department of Resident Life Policies Pertaining to Emergency Preparedness

WHEREAS the Residence Hall Association (RHA) is the governing body for all on-campus students, and

WHEREAS the RHA has priority influence in regards to issues within the University of Maryland, College Park (UMD) Department of Resident Life (DRL) through the Resident Life Advisory Team (ReLATe), and

WHEREAS students have raised concerns following the tornado warning of 2011 and the prevented possible shooting of 2012 that UMD policies pertaining to emergency preparedness are neither well understood, nor simple enough to understand, and

WHEREAS the UMD Department of Environmental Safety (DES) is currently reviewing all emergency operation plans for the campus, and

WHEREAS Captain Marc Limansky of the UMD Department of Public Safety (UMPD) discussed various proposals with RHA in ReLATe, and

WHEREAS currently, information regarding emergency preparedness can be found on the websites for DES, DRL, and UMD, as well as a link to the UMD page from the MyUM portal,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that RHA recommends to DRL that Resident Assistants (RAs) and Community Assistants receive increased training on UMD emergency procedures, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the acronym SOS, standing for Stop, Observe, and Seek Information, be promoted as a simple procedure for students to follow in the event of any emergency, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that RHA requests for the SOS mechanism to be taught each semester by RAs at the first floor meeting and/or individually with each resident, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that RHA urges DRL to work with UMPD and DES so that an annual floor meeting can be held where officers/officials can discuss emergency procedures, explain where to find information, and introduce and encourage applications students may be able to use for help in emergency situations (e.g. M-Urgency, UMD Alerts), and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ReLATe will be tasked for the 2012-2013 academic year to work with DRL, DES, and UMPD to create a FAQ to help students find quick answers to questions about emergency procedures, and
THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that RHA asks DRL to work with DES, and the Division of Information Technology (OIT) to incorporate this FAQ, upon its completion, into existing online emergency preparedness resources, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, additionally, RHA tasks ReLATe to work with DRL and OIT to expand from the mere listing of the link to the UMD emergency preparedness page under the "Student Services" tab of MyUM to a more comprehensive “Emergency Preparedness” subsection, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that RHA urges DRL to explore the possibility of creating an annual emergency drill for each hall or area on campus, and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that future hall and area councils be encouraged to hold events themed around safety/emergency preparedness.

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