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From: External Affairs <externalaffairs@sg.ufl.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 11:09 AM
To: citycomm
Subject: Towing Rate

Good Morning! Tomorrow, Student Body President of the University of Florida Cory Yeffet plans on commenting on the proposed increase in towing rates. I have pasted his remarks below and would love for them to be included in the public record. Please let me know if you have any questions and we look forward to the commission meeting tomorrow!

Good evening commissioners and Mayor Braddy. My name is Cory Yeffet and I am the Student Body President of the University of Florida. I am here tonight to voice my opposition to raising trespass towing rates on behalf of the over 50,000 students here at UF.

University of Florida students have been opposed to the proposed hikes in towing rates for the past several years and our reasoning remains the same. First, towing companies have failed to provide adequate evidence that an increase in the rate is necessary. The proposed \$100 fee is arbitrary and shows no correlation between rising expenses and towing rates. Second, predatory and dishonest towing practices have become such a prevalent problem here in Gainesville that UF faculty take time to caution students against parking anywhere off campus as a regular part of Freshman Orientation. Clearly several changes need to be made concerning all facets of towing here in Gainesville, but increasing the towing rate is not the place to start. Students feel that now that we are finally on the verge of correcting some of these practices, it would be inappropriate to reward towing companies in this time of change and uncertainty.

Before there is an increase to the towing rate in any amount, students would like to be informed of why that amount was chosen. While we understand that expenses like tires, oil and minimum wage have risen over the years, we do not understand how a \$26 increase can be traced to reflect this change. Despite the fact that Gainesville's towing rate is lower relative to peer cities, the new rate should be contingent upon rising costs, not other cities' rising rates. UF students are not opposed to rising rates. If these companies truly cannot continue to operate in a legal capacity then by all means, fees should be raised. However, students are opposed to unsupported and unsubstantiated flat rates.

Furthermore, it is fortunate that this decision falls the same night that we will be discussing closing loopholes that allow towing companies to run rampant around campus. While towing companies and even some commissioners have voiced opinions that towing abuse is a separate issue from a rising towing rate, we disagree. We would like to see all loopholes sealed and a return of compliant and fair towing practices in Gainesville before further exploring an increase in the towing rate. It would be irresponsible to grant towing companies an increased towing rate before implementing and observing the consequences of the new ordinance.

In conclusion, I would like to once again voice my opposition and deep concern regarding this issue. I urge you to heavily weigh this decision and take into account the thousands of students that will be affected by this change. Thank you for your time.

Thank you,

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