

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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Author(s): Chair Nieto

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Committee: Administration & Finance

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Condemning UHPD's Chief of Police Ceaser Moore, and the May 8th Assault on the Student Body

Whereas, The UHPD Chief of Police Ceaser Moore has stated on the UHPD website that every UHPD employee uses three principles to help ensure that the UH students, faculty, staff, and visitors on campus are protected;

Whereas, those three principles are stated as follows:

- (a) promoting and preserving a safe campus environment
- (b) identifying and implementing efficiencies
- (c) provide great customer service;¹

Whereas, the Chief of Police, UHPD officers, and other security personnel on May 8th, 2024 acted in ways contradictory to the values previously stated and failed to "enable students, faculty, staff and visitors to be safe while pursuing their on-campus endeavors" by assaulting students and university community members who were peacefully gathering at Butler Plaza for a student-led and organized protest;

¹ <https://uh.edu/police/>

Whereas, Butler Plaza is a common area explicitly defined as an “area of the UH campus (e.g., University parks, grassy areas, sidewalks) can be used for expressive activity without prior registration or approval”²;

Whereas, members of the student body have shared their concerns and discontent with the practices and force used by UHPD personnel on students who congregated to exercise their First Amendment rights;

Whereas, multiple students who were part of the peaceful protest were assaulted by UHPD/security personnel³ and left with scratches, skin burns, and bruises on their bodies;

Whereas, eyewitness accounts attest to a UH graduate student and a UH undergraduate student being dragged to the ground and arrested at Butler Plaza on May 8th, 2024;

Whereas, the UH graduate student was charged with Disorderly Conduct and Criminal Trespass Warning; and allegedly in violation of the Student Life Policy despite the student-led protests remaining peaceful while in a common area that did not require prior registration;

Whereas, the UH undergraduate student was charged with Evading Arrest and Aggravated Assault despite the student-led protests remaining peaceful while in a common area that did not require prior registration;

Evading Arrest; Aggravated Assault	24-0880	5/8/2024	5/8/2024, 9:49:00 AM	5/8/2024, 10:05:00 AM	Butler Plaza	Open Case
Disorderly Conduct; Student Life Policy; Criminal Trespass Warning	24-0881	5/8/2024	5/8/2024, 4:30:00 AM	5/8/2024, 10:35:00 AM	Butler Plaza	Open Case

Whereas, the UHPD removed the encampments then furthered their efforts and continued with the removal of students who were located in a common space for protest that was peaceful;

²<https://uh.edu/freedomofexpression/#:~:text=Are%20there%20Free%20Speech%20zones,members%20of%20registered%20student%20organizations:>

³ <https://x.com/i/status/1788217475194056804>

Whereas, students who were arrested were transported to the Harris County Process Center in Downtown Houston, out of reach of university jurisdiction, where they were then held for over 10 hours⁴;

Whereas, the University of Houston Police Department is not following its strategic vision⁵;

Whereas, Chief of Police Ceaser Moore failed to protect this University's students, faculty, staff, and community members on May 8th, 2024.

Therefore, be it resolved by the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

The University of Houston Student Government Association condemns the assault on the student body and university community perpetrated by Chief of Police Ceaser Moore and UHPD on May 8th, 2024;

Be it further resolved, the Student Government Association requests that the Chief of Police Ceaser Moore issue a formal written apology to the students, faculty, and staff of the University, acknowledging UHPD's actions on May 8th, 2024 were contradictory to its values. This apology should outline the steps that will be taken to ensure that excessive force is not tolerated within UHPD to regain the confidence and trust of the UH community;

Be it further resolved, the University of Houston's Police Department provide an up-to-date Annual summary of Internal Affairs investigations dispositions⁶ and create a more comprehensive Internal Affairs report going forward as a part of this process⁷;

Be it further resolved, The report should include metrics on repeat offenders and the levels of disciplinary action given for repeat offenders;

⁴<https://www.khou.com/article/news/local/harris-county/university-of-houston-students-arrested-palestine-protest/285-ae719a0f-1629-4d0a-8bf4-a434c2246078>

⁵ <https://uh.edu/police/documents/uhpdc-strategic-vision>


⁶ <https://uh.edu/police/records-reports/complaint-process/>

⁷ https://uh.edu/police/documents/uhpdc_annual_ia_report.pdf

Be it further resolved, the report should include definitions for the different discipline methods utilized, and the level of offense they relate to, as well as the effectiveness of the respective disciplinary methods;

Be it further resolved, the Student Government Association requests that the Chief of Police Ceaser Moore and UHPD include a variety of opportunities for the UH community to provide feedback in addition to the current "File a Complaint" system to strengthen the relationship with the UHPD and the community;

Be it further resolved, that UHPD work with members of the university community to review their response to existing trainings and protocols with a primary focus on protecting students wishing to exercise their First Amendment rights without encountering excessive force. This review should be released to the public and quickly followed by the implementation of revised training procedures.



Sebastian Ballesteros
Speaker of the Senate

Date of Senate Approval: 06-12-2024