



FR23-13

A Resolution Requesting That the Policy Office Permit Pepper Spray at University Sanctioned Events

Sponsored By: Brian Ng (First Year Representative)

WHEREAS: According to the Cavalier Daily’s coverage of the 2023 Fire Safety and Security Report, there were 35 reported sexual assault cases in 2022¹; **AND,**

WHEREAS: According to University of Iowa’s Rape Victim Advocacy Program, pepper spray is a “risk reduction” tool that can be used to prevent sexual assault².

WHEREAS: Pepper spray is NOT classified as a weapon under Virginia Administrative Code in Title 8, Section 85 (which governs public institutions of higher education)³. Therefore, there is no state law requiring UVA to restrict the possession of pepper spray on grounds. **AND,**

WHEREAS: In spite of state policy, UVA policy includes pepper spray as an item that is prohibited in “limited occurrences⁴” meaning students are prohibited from carrying pepper spray at all University sanctioned functions; **AND,**

WHEREAS: Students at other public universities in the commonwealth of Virginia are permitted to carry pepper spray at any time for self defense, including Virginia Tech, Virginia Commonwealth University⁵, the College of William and Mary, and Christopher Newport University⁶; **THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED the 2023-2024 University of Virginia Student Council calls upon the Policy Office and the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer to change the classification of pepper spray from a prohibited to permissible item at all university functions; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

¹ <https://www.cavalierdaily.com/article/2023/10/>

² <https://rvap.uiowa.edu/help/sexual-violence-faqs>

³ <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency85/chapter20/section20/>

⁴ <https://uvapolicy.virginia.edu/policy/sec-030>

⁵ <https://police.vcu.edu/stay-safe/pepper-spray/>

⁶ <https://www.wavy.com/news/most-college-campuses-permitting-pepper-spray-for-personal-protection/>



RESOLVED, the 2023-2024 University of Virginia Student Council is calling upon the Executive Vice President and Provost to publicize information on how to responsibly use pepper spray AND to provide for its sale in the UVA Bookstore; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, the 2023-2024 University of Virginia Student Council is calling upon the Policy Director, if they disagree with this proposed change, to appear before this body to answer questions.

President Date

Sponsor(s) Date