



Central Student Government

Assembly Resolution 10-032

Use of Dorms as an Emergency Shelter

Resolution information

Sponsor(s)	Zackariah Farah, LSA; Vera Xing, LSA; Aarushi Ganguly, LSA;
Endorser(s)	Bennett Walling, Patrick Pullis, Maleny Crespo
Long title	A Declarative Resolution Advocating for the Designation of Dorm Space as an Emergency Shelter by Expressing Support for Ann Arbor City Council Resolution R-20-373
Author Summary	This resolution encourages administration to partner with the Ann Arbor City Council, the Washtenaw County Health Department, and the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County to draft a comprehensive plan to use dorm space as an emergency shelter in the event that homeless shelters in Ann Arbor reach capacity during the Winter of 2020-2021. This was already requested by the Ann Arbor City Council but little progress has been made so far.

Assembly information (to be completed by the Speaker)

Status	To be introduced.
Requirements	Reading in two separate meetings; simple majority vote; Presidential approval.
Committees	Communications

Attest

Carla Voigt, Engineering
Speaker of the Assembly

Yes: [Unanimous Consent] Date: 1 December 2020

Presidential Approval

Section 1.

The Central Student Government Assembly finds and declares all of the following:

WHEREAS,

CSG Assemblymember Zackariah Farah was contacted by Ann Arbor City Council Member Elizabeth Nelson regarding the suggestions made in City Council Resolution R-20-373, *Resolution to Partner with The¹ University of Michigan to Provide Emergency Shelter in Ann Arbor*;

AND WHEREAS,

City Council Resolution R-20-373 calls for a meeting "... between representatives from the University of Michigan, the Washtenaw County Health Department, the Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development and any other local entities that would provide services for and coordinate the use of University housing units for emergency shelter this winter season 2020-2021,";

AND WHEREAS,

In May, 2020, Ann Arbor City Council unanimously approved appropriating \$250,000 to cover costs incurred by the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County in March and April, when shelters reached capacity, which necessitated the reservation of 106 rooms at the Red Roof Inn, ;²

AND WHEREAS,

The City Council has a limited budget to pay for hotel rooms to house the Ann Arbor homeless population,

AND WHEREAS,

Even when there is not an uncontrolled global pandemic, atomized accommodations are preferable as they are more dignified, humanizing, and maintain autonomy better than congregate shelters ;³

AND WHEREAS,

The homeless shelters in Ann Arbor are classified as congregate shelters ; these congregate shelters, when at⁴ high capacity, unnecessarily increase the risk of COVID-19 infection in an already vulnerable population,

AND WHEREAS,

Since the week of October 11th, there has been a troubling growth in the number of reported COVID-19 cases both on campus and off campus, with an increase in weekly cases of 78.9% and 105.6% respectively ;⁵

AND WHEREAS,

¹<http://a2gov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4641011&GUID=052B71ED-44BB-4A32-8BB9-942665492B39&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=shelter&FullText=1>

²<https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2020/10/dozens-of-homeless-people-staying-at-ann-arbor-hotel-to-be-relocated-to-shelters.html>

³https://www.wliha.org/sites/default/files/A9_We%20Cant%20Go%20Back.pdf

⁴<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/shared-congregate-house/guidance-shared-congregate-housing.html>

[g.html](#)

⁵<https://campusblueprint.umich.edu/dashboard/>

The Shelter Association of Washtenaw County (SAWC) is actively searching for housing space to use as shelters ;⁶

AND WHEREAS,

The average temperature during Michigan winters ranges between 9 and 24 degrees Fahrenheit, leaving homeless people in Ann Arbor at risk of sickness or even death without adequate lodging;

AND WHEREAS,

During the nationwide polar vortex in 2019, there were at least 21 weather-related deaths in the United States, with hospitals also documenting the treatment of even more patients with frostbite several of whom were homeless;

AND WHEREAS,

U-M housing has announced plans to reduce density in residential halls for the Winter 2021 semester by requesting that all students who don't need to live in residence halls remain at their permanent residences for the semester , which will leave a significant portion of the residential halls vacant; ⁷

AND WHEREAS,

Several other universities including Suffolk University and Sonoma State University have already worked ^{8 9} with local shelter associations and government officials to house homeless city residents and have created long term emergency housing plans in the event that the shelters reach their safe capacity;

Section 2.

THEREFORE it is, by the Students of the University of Michigan, through Central Student Government:

RESOLVED,

That CSG urges the administration to meet with representatives from Washtenaw County Health Department, the Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development, and the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County to discuss City Council Resolution R-20-373;

AND FURTHER RESOLVED,

That CSG encourages administration to consider the use of residence halls and other appropriate university facilities and areas for use as emergency housing;

AND FURTHER RESOLVED,

That CSG supports the University in implementing common-sense measures as part of this contingency plan necessary to maintain safety of the campus community and respect of University property at all times;

⁶<https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2020/10/shelter-association-of-washtenaw-county-seeking-help-to-provide-safe-winter-sheltering.html>

⁷<https://record.umich.edu/articles/plans-announced-for-winter-semester-academics-housing-testing/>

⁸<https://www.wcvb.com/article/boston-mayor-walsh-coronavirus-update-march-29-2020/31968871>

⁹<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/first-homeless-residents-move-into-sonoma-state-university-amid-coronavirus/>

AND FURTHER RESOLVED,

Residence halls that are entirely closed to student residence shall be those considered for emergency housing;

AND FURTHER RESOLVED,

That this resolution be sent to Susan Collins, the University Provost, Rick Gibson, Jasmine Clay, the University Director of Housing, and Jennifer Erb-Downward, Senior Research Area Specialist at U-M's Poverty Solutions Initiative;

AND FINALLY RESOLVED,

That Appendix A contains a copy of R-20-373 passed by Ann Arbor City Council;

Appendix A:



Legislation Text

File #: 20-1417, **Version:** 2

Resolution to Partner with The University of Michigan to Provide Emergency Shelter in Ann Arbor
Whereas, Local governmental and nonprofit organizations provide additional emergency shelter during the winter season in Ann Arbor;

Whereas, If there is a resurgence of COVID 19 (similar to the experience we had at the start of the pandemic) , past strategies for providing additional congregant emergency shelter would not be preferred

Whereas, Ann Arbor anticipates an increased need for safe, noncongregant emergency shelter during the winter season of 2020-2021 if there is a resurgence of COVID-19 cases;

Whereas, Emergency shelter can be (and has been) negotiated from local businesses that traditionally only provide housing for a fee and for a profit. E.g. The Ann Arbor community (through the Washtenaw County and its partners) currently provides emergency shelter at a local hotel

Whereas, The University of Michigan and the city of Ann Arbor are partners in promoting the health and safety of our shared community;

Whereas, The University of Michigan has previously allowed City use of University-owned property in arrangements (e.g. anticipated temporary use of the University Art Museum by the Ann Arbor City Clerk's office);

RESOLVED, The City of Ann Arbor will immediately take steps to discuss with the University of Michigan the possibility of using available housing units at their Ann Arbor campus in anticipation of a possible resurgence of the COVID-19 virus and the winter season 2020-2021, to meet the increased need for safe, emergency housing in our local community;

RESOLVED, The City Administrator is directed to seek to schedule a meeting between the City Council of Ann Arbor and the Regents of the University of Michigan to occur before November 1, 2020, to discuss Ann Arbor temporary emergency shelter needs;

RESOLVED, The City Administrator is directed to coordinate a meeting to occur before November 1, 2020, among appropriate representatives from the University of Michigan, the Washtenaw County Health Department, the Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development and any other local entities that would provide services for and coordinate the use of University housing units for emergency shelter this winter season 2020-2021.

Sponsored by: Council Members Nelson and Hayner

As Amended and Approved by Ann Arbor City Council on September 21, 2020