



Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(03/29/2021)
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #46
2 Petition for University owned residence security
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4 ABSTRACT: This resolution calls for action on the growing issue of theft and offence in University-
5 owned residence halls.
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7 **Sponsored by: Andrea Miramontes Serrano '24**
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9 **Whereas**, regarding the issue of food theft, an increasingly large part of the student body has
10 downgraded or discarded their meal plan and therefore relies partially or completely on
11 communal kitchens.
12

13 **Whereas**, Cornell university cares for the mental and physical wellbeing of its students, and
14 acknowledges the weight of financial matters in student's living decisions (MHR Report,
15 April 2020), and the decision to cancel dining meal plans are often tied to students' finances,
16

17 **Whereas**, said report also highlights the importance of balancing Cornell University's demand for
18 academic excellence with non-curricular experiences, and whereas large body of students
19 cook in the University's owned residences for recreational purposes or as community
20 fostering activities,
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22 **Whereas**, Cornell University has enabled progress towards the food independence of its student
23 body by reopening *Annabel's* subsidized, student-run grocery store, yet does not fully provide
24 a convenient environment to cook for on-campus residents,
25

26 **Whereas**, the increasing theft reports, out of which a concerning percentage regards the
27 disappearance of food and kitchen supplies even when said goods were appropriately labeled
28 is preventing students from engaging in such experiences and activities,
29

30 **Whereas**, one possible response to the issue of food theft could be to reserve one fridge per fixed
31 amount of residents – as it has been established with pandemic restrictions – while
32 implementing locks to ensure said fridges are only accessed by the corresponding students,
33 yet
34

35 **Whereas**, the communal kitchens in Cornell University's residences do not accommodate enough
36 fridges for this system to be viable, as the current amount ranges between 1 and 3 fridges per
37 kitchen, and whereas providing too many student access to the same fridge would virtually
38 equate not having any system at all, heighten the risk of other, unauthorized students also
39 using the fridges - i.e. peers without granted access to the kitchen.



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41 **Whereas**, implementing security cameras could be more cost-effective than possibly another option
42 replicating West Campus' restricted kitchen pantry system as it also combats other security
43 issues faced on gathering spaces by not only avoid consistent theft but also enable
44 identifying both offenders and offences in the event of misbehavior,
45

46 **Whereas**, there has been an increasing debate on the University's response to security threats, and
47

48 **Whereas**, Cornell University Housing should have already implemented a security system to avoid
49 or respond to such incidences on Cornell University owned housing property.
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51 **Be it therefore resolved**, that Cornell University will begin to implement security camera systems
52 Cornell owned housing property, focusing on public spaces where communal food storage is
53 located (i.e. kitchens and lounges).
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55 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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57 Andrea Miramontes Serrano '24
58 *Freshman Representative, Student Assembly*

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60 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 3-1-2, 04/21/2021).*