

# Cornell University Student Assembly

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Type of Action:	Legislation
Status/Result:	New Business

## S.A. Resolution #22

### Establishing an Equitable Event Registry System for Cooperative Houses

ABSTRACT: This resolution seeks to create a system for registering and hosting events in cooperative living houses that provides similar protections and university support as events in Greek houses.

**Sponsored by: Gavin Martin '20, Moriah Adeghe '21**

**Whereas**, Cornell University has eight cooperative living houses: 660 Stewart (660), Prospect of Whitby, Triphammer, Von Cramm, Wait Avenue, Wait Terrace, Wanawake Wa Wari (Wari), and Watermargin;

**Whereas**, in recent years, the Cornell administration has not allowed social events to be hosted at cooperative housing, citing fire code;

**Whereas**, within, for example, the cooperative house Watermargin public rooms are clearly marked with Cornell University Environmental Health and Safety Department signs that authorize an occupancy of up to 49 people *per room*. These appear to contradict earlier claims by the administration that the *entire house* has a 49 person capacity;

**Whereas**, in the above case of Watermargin, *even if the entire house* has an occupant capacity of 49 people, Watermargin should be able to host events at said *maximum capacity*;

**Whereas**, previously, cooperatives had been able to host large educational, cultural, and other events. Fraternities still have these means through a mechanism offered by the administration allowing them to register events with high numbers of occupants, at which alcohol may be served to people over 21 years old;

**Whereas**, cooperative events are almost always open to the general Cornell community and allow valuable opportunities for cross community discussions and interactions;

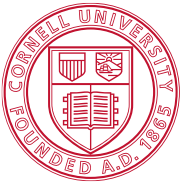
**Whereas**, cooperative living houses face greater restrictions and risk of prosecution when it comes to hosting parties;

**Whereas**, the ability to register social events is integral for coordination and communication with first responders;

**Whereas**, undergraduate students are in search of safer spaces to socialize outside of fraternity houses – which already monopolize social interactions even within Greek Life, evident in sororities being unable to host events of their own;

**Whereas**, fraternity parties in particular have seen numerous [recent incidents of assault and harassment](#);

**Whereas**, according to the *2019 Cornell Survey of Sexual Assault and Related Misconduct: Overview of Survey Results*, “Among undergraduate women and men, the most common locations for nonconsensual sexual contact experience to have occurred were: ... a fraternity chapter (23% of incidents described by women) [and], a fraternity annex (10% of women)”;



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48 **Whereas**, the cooperative living community at Cornell, and the parties and events that they host, are  
49 frequently described as among the most inclusive spaces on Cornell's campus;

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51 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the current policies which restrict the ability of cooperative living houses to  
52 host events in a similar manner as Greek houses be revisited;

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54 **Be it further resolved**, that a permanent system be set up to allow cooperative living houses to register both  
55 educational, academic, and social events, including those where alcohol may be present for individuals 21 and  
56 older. Establishing an official system, similar to the system which is already in place for Greek houses would  
57 further enable Cornell University to ensure students are being responsible when hosting events.

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59 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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61 Gavin Martin '20  
62 *College of Arts & Sciences Representative, Student Assembly*  
63 *Co-President, Inter-Cooperative Union (ICU)*

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65 Moriah Adeghe '21  
66 *Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly*  
67 *Member, Watermargin Cooperative*

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69 Eve Hallock '21  
70 *Co-President, Inter-Cooperative Union (ICU)*

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72 Omar Dairi '20  
73 *President, 660 Stewart Cooperative*

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75 Kyra Patton '19  
76 *President, Von Cramm Cooperative*

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78 Shayla Lugay '21  
79 *President, Prospect of Whitby Cooperative*

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81 Nicole Oliveira '20  
82 *President, Watermargin Cooperative*

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84 Daniel Kirchner '21  
85 *President, Triphammer Cooperative*

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87 Sophie Cook '19  
88 *President, Wait Avenue Cooperative*

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90 Kiana Chow '22  
91 *President, Wait Terrace Cooperative*

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93 Wanawake Wa Wari Cooperative signed on by an intra-cooperative majority approval

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95 *With special thanks to TJ Ball '19 for the initial resolution's framework*