

Cornell University
University Assembly

U.A. Resolution #3

**Endorsing “The Ithaca Plan: A Public Health and Safety
Approach to Drugs and Drug Policy”**

[November 1, 2016]

1 **Sponsored by:** Linda Copman, Employee Representative; Ulysses Smith, Employee
2 **Representative; Chair:** Campus Welfare Committee

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4 **On Behalf Of:** The University Assembly Campus Welfare Committee

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6 **Whereas,** the University community recognizes the critical need to address issues of campus safety,
7 in the wake of separate stabbing incidents on or near campus this semester, at least one of which
8 involved the sale of drugs; and

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10 **Whereas,** in fall 2015, the Office of Institutional Research and Planning recorded that there were a
11 total of 32,076 people working or studying at Cornell, which is slightly more than the total
12 population of the City of Ithaca (30,788 persons), and nearly one third of the total population of
13 Tompkins County (104,926 persons) according to U.S. Census data for July 2015; and

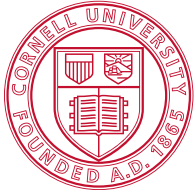
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15 **Whereas,** the vast majority of Cornell students, faculty, and staff live off-campus in the City of 17
16 Ithaca and in surrounding communities, where they utilize and depend upon the healthcare and
17 criminal justice services and systems provided by these communities; and

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19 **Whereas,** members of the Cornell community are suffering from drug addiction and it often falls to
20 the staff of the University, including medical, counseling, student affairs, and custodial staff, to
21 cope 22 with the impacts of drug use—such as overdose, problems with academics, and missed days
22 of school 23 or work; and 24

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24 **Whereas,** the University administration has expressed support for strengthening our relationships
25 with partner law enforcement agencies in the City of Ithaca and surrounding communities, as one
26 important means to bolster campus safety; and

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28 **Whereas,** in April 2014, City of Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick convened the Municipal Drug Policy
29 Community and charged this group with recommending policies and practices we could adopt to
30 improve our local response to drug use and related policies; and

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32 **Whereas,** in February 2016, the Municipal Drug Policy Community, comprised of experts and
33 leaders from the various sectors that respond to drug use in our community, released its report
34 outlining a coordinated drug strategy which is rooted in public health and safety; and



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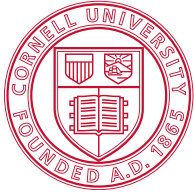
Whereas, the Campus Welfare Committee of the University Assembly formally considered the findings and recommendations of the Municipal Drug Policy Community on October 25, 2016, and it was the consensus of the group to endorse these finding and recommendations; therefore

Be it resolved, that the University Assembly formally endorses the goals and recommendations outlined in the Executive Summary of “The Ithaca Plan: A Public Health and Safety Approach to Drugs and Drug Policy,” namely:

- **Governance and Leadership**
Create a mayoral-level office tasked to reduce the morbidity, mortality, cost, and inequities associated with illicit drugs and our current responses to them.
- **Education**
Key stakeholders and all Ithacans should have access to evidence-based practices and education around drugs, preventing problematic use, reducing harms associated with drug use, and helping oneself or others who have a drug use problem.
- **Recovery-Oriented Treatment, Harm Reduction, and Ancillary Services**
Create a recovery-oriented treatment continuum that offers access to timely, individualized, and evidence-based, effective care, through services that are people-centered and able to meet the needs of individuals no matter their current relationship to drug use or recovery.
- **Community and Economic Development**
Support and expand existing efforts to improve youth and family development, economic opportunity, and public health of communities, targeting vulnerable communities as immediate beneficiaries and ensuring that all Ithacans have the same access to resources and investments.
- **Public Safety**
Redirect law enforcement and community resources from criminalization to increasing access to services. Encourage a shared responsibility for community health and safety that extends beyond the Ithaca Police Department.

Resolved, that the University administration should partner with the City of Ithaca to advocate for approval of The Ithaca Plan in the upcoming 2017 legislative session and to support the implementation of the recommendations outlined in the Ithaca Plan; and

Be it Finally Resolved, that the University administration and the City of Ithaca should formally present a status update on progress made toward achieving the legislation necessary to implement the goals of The Ithaca Plan to the University Assembly by October 2017, and on an annual basis every October thereafter until the goals outlined above have been achieved.



Cornell University
University Assembly

Adopted by a Vote of the Assembly (13 – 0 – 1), November 29, 2016,

Gabe Kaufman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gabe Kaufman".

Chair, University Assembly