
Senate Bill No.: SB 2014-2015-09

Date: March 9, 2015

Authored by: Brianna Wilcox, Senator, Health and Human Development

Referred to: External Affairs Committee

Committee Rec: **Approved on 3/25/15 (7-0-0)**

Senate Action: **Approved on 4/13/15 (16-0-0)**

Title: **Student Accessibility to Police Services During an Emergency**

1. WHEREAS: The Associated Students, Inc. (A.S.) is the official voice of over 40,000 students at California State University Northridge; and
2. WHEREAS: A.S. is the primary advocate for students at CSUN and provides excellent, meaningful programs and services designed to create and enhance a safe, spirited, learning focused campus environment; and
3. WHEREAS: In the case of an emergency, getting in contact with The Department of Police Services (DPS) in a timely manner is of utmost importance; and
4. WHEREAS: In an effort to make a safer campus for everyone, there are currently a total of 93 blue emergency light poles located throughout CSUN in high traffic areas such as campus walkways, parking lots and structures, the University Park Apartments Complex, and other common areas.¹
5. WHEREAS: These blue emergency light poles cater only to the campus hearing population and requires one to speak into the boxes in the case of an emergency; and
6. WHEREAS: CSUN is nationally acclaimed for catering to the needs of a very diverse student population, a segment of which who are deaf and hard of hearing; and
7. WHEREAS: CSUN is proud to be one of only two institutions in the nation that offers a comprehensive undergraduate program in the area of Deaf Studies,² and

¹ <http://www.csun.edu/sites/default/files/bluelights.pdf>

² <http://www.csun.edu/eisner-education/deaf-studies/why-deaf-studies>

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8. WHEREAS: There is a recognized need to provide all members of the CSUN community with more methods of reaching campus police in times of peril; and
7. WHEREAS: To fulfill this need, The Department of Police Services (DPS) is set to launch their new TEXT 911 system in the Fall of 2015 which will allow all calls and texts to 911 on campus to be routed to DPS instead of LAPD; therefore let it be
1. RESOLVED: That the Associated Students, Inc. recognizes the need for increased accessibility and easy access for every member of the CSUN community to reach the Department of Police Services (DPS) in the case of an emergency; and
2. RESOLVED: That the Associated Students, Inc. supports the implementation of the TEXT 911 system and wants to see it thrive for all members of the CSUN community; and let it be further
3. RESOLVED: That the Associated Students, Inc. commends DPS for not relying solely on voice communication which is limited to the hearing community but instead provide an alternative route to “text in” emergencies and provide more accessibility for the deaf community to reach DPS; and let it be further
4. RESOLVED: That upon the launch of the new TEXT 911 system, we recommend that promotion and publicity about the system be widely spread and available for all students; and let it be further
5. RESOLVED: That with this new text messaging system, the entire CSUN community will have the ability to contact the Department of Police Services to report an emergency and have direct access to assistance; and let it be further
6. RESOLVED: That the External Affairs Committee follow up with the Department of Police Services by Fall 2015 in order to provide updates about the Text 911 program and its impact on campus; and let it be finally
7. RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution be distributed widely, including but not limited to the following:
- Dianne Harrison, CSUN President
 - William Watkins, Vice President of Student Affairs & Dean of Students
 - Department of Police Services
 - The National Center on Deafness
 - Office of Equity and Diversity

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS



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- Disability Resources and Educational Services
 - The Office of Student Involvement and Development
 - Deaf Studies Association
 - Deaf CSUNians
 - CSUN Today
 - The Sundial

Tiffany Zaich
President, 2014-2015

Talar Alexanian
Vice President, 2014-2015