Resolution 2019-2020-27 UCF Downtown Handicap Accessible Parking

Whereas, the UCF Downtown campus in partnership with Valencia College opened in August 2019 with a combined total of 9,202 students enrolled, along with 300 faculty and staff; and

Whereas, the City of Orlando closed a parking lot directly across from the Dr. Phillips Academic Commons once the Parramore parking garage opened in September 2019; and

Whereas, the City of Orlando states that the provision of 13 handicap accessible parking spaces in the Parramore Garage (PG1) and 11 handicap accessible spaces in the Amelia garage (PG3) meets the minimum standards established by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); and

Whereas, the distance from the Parramore garage (the closest to UCF Downtown campus buildings) is 520 feet from the Dr. Phillips Academic Commons, 600 feet to Union West, and 920 feet from the main entrance to the Communications and Media Building (see attached map); and

Whereas, UCF downtown leadership have received numerous requests to provide handicap accessible parking spaces closer to campus buildings; and

Whereas, while the City of Orlando continues to work with UCF Downtown administration to identify a solution, their staff has concluded that on-street parking spaces closer to these buildings would not meet ADA requirements for ramps, spacing to the sidewalk, and clearances to allow for ingress and egress from the vehicle to the street and sidewalk; and

Whereas, other governments have recognized the need for proximate handicap accessible parking spaces by requiring they must be located within 100 feet (City of Toronto, Canada) or 200 feet (State of North Carolina) of a building entrance; and

Whereas, the City of Orlando has met the letter of the ADA law but not the spirit by requiring those with temporary or physical disability to travel 3-5 times the recommended distance to access Downtown UCF facilities; and

Whereas, the allowance of four free hours of parking by the City of Orlando in its on-street parking spaces is insufficient for UCF faculty, staff, and students who are required to work and/or study on the Downtown campus for 8 or more hours at a time; and

Whereas, the City of Orlando has committed to provide reasonable accommodation to those with temporary or permanent disability upon request; and

Whereas, proximate access to the facilities of UCF and Valencia College, which combined are the largest drivers of economic self-sufficiency in the Central Florida region, aligns with Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer’s vision articulated at the National Disability Institute’s Financial Inclusion summit hosted in Orlando in August 2017, “Orlando is making history by committing to reduce poverty and advance financial inclusion for people with disabilities. I am excited to align our values and vision with action that brings together the financial community with the disability
community and government to make the ADA’s goal of advancing economic self-sufficiency a reality for all Americans with disabilities,” and;

Whereas, the University of Central Florida strives to provide a fully accessible and inclusive UCF campus for people with disabilities; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the UCF Faculty encourages the Downtown UCF administration and the City of Orlando to designate publicly-available handicap accessible parking spaces that are located within 200 feet of the Union West, Dr. Phillips Academic Commons, and Communications and Media buildings of the Downtown UCF campus to better serve University of Central Florida and Valencia College faculty, staff, students, and visitors.

Approved by the Faculty Senate Parking, Transportation and Safety Committee on February 17, 2020.
Approved by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee on March 5, 2020.