

## THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

## It's DIVVY (Diversifying and Improving Vital Venues for Y'all) Time

<u>Sponsors:</u> Timothy Lu, College Council Representative Class of 2026 <u>Signatories:</u>

• Meghan Hendrix, College Council Class of 2023 Representative

WHEREAS the urgent need to improve public and student transportation around the University of Chicago campus is essential for enhancing students' convenience and overall quality of life when it comes to navigating campus to participate in classes, extracurriculars, and general transport, particularly in relation to access to the bicycle sharing system Divvy, owned by the Chicago Department of Transportation and operated by Lyft, that offers rideshare bikes as an eco-friendly and convenient transportation option,

WHEREAS a notable gap in Divvy stations exists in the region bounded by 55<sup>th</sup> Street to the north and 61<sup>st</sup> Street to the south, and University Avenue to the west and the Metra line to the east, which includes critical locations such as Saieh Hall, Ida Noyes Hall, Rockefeller Chapel, the Institute of Politics, the Booth School of Business, the Harris School of Public Policy, the David Rubenstein Forum, the Office of International Affairs, and more,

WHEREAS, in particular, introducing a Divvy station near Woodlawn Residential Commons, the largest student dormitory, which currently lacks a proximate Divvy station unlike every other major dorm, will significantly reduce the long and unnecessary walk students must take to access the Divvy station at Renee Granville-Grossman Residential Commons (South), particularly during winter and inclement weather, in addition to providing easier access for students of other dorms to Woodlawn Residential Commons, not to mention the greater mobility that would be granted to residents of Woodlawn Residential Commons, the largest student dormitory,

WHEREAS the establishment of a comprehensive student discount membership program for Divvy bikes beyond the currently-existing Divvy for Everyone program is anticipated to significantly bolster ridership, thereby fostering a sustainable and accessible campus and neighborhood infrastructure, and concurrently yielding manifold advantages for students, the University of Chicago, as well as the broader Hyde Park and Chicago communities,

WHEREAS engaging the campus community and Divvy in discussions for addressing the systemic lack of Divvy stations on the east side of campus and near critical locations, as well as

the need for a general student discount membership, underscores the University's commitment to promoting sustainable transportation, encouraging open dialogue, and addressing the diverse needs and preferences of its students, consequently fostering a sense of unity, shared values, and cultivating a culture of inclusivity, collaboration, and mutual support,

**BE IT RESOLVED** the Undergraduate Student Government recognizes the necessity for improved transportation options and accessibility for the campus community, striving to ensure convenient access to Divvy rideshare bikes and advocating for a widespread student discount membership, particularly for Woodlawn Residential Commons students and those in the affected region,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Undergraduate Student Government build on its existing working relationship with the University of Chicago Transportation Administrators such as Beth Tindel, Director of Transportation & Parking Services, and Christopher Ledbetter, Transportation Operations Manager, on previous projects such as airport shuttles to call for the expansion of Divvy stations to critical locations on the east side of campus, working closely with Divvy, to strategically place stations that serve the needs of students and faculty, for example by identifying University and/or city property that may be allocated to serve the needs of Divvy stations.

**BE IT RESOLVED** the Undergraduate Student Government will strongly advocate for addressing the systemic lack of Divvy stations on the east side of campus and near critical locations, as well as the need for a broader student discount membership, with the ultimate goal of fostering a more inclusive, accessible, and interconnected campus environment that allows every community member to fully experience the University's dynamic, multifaceted nature, while simultaneously promoting sustainable transportation options,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Undergraduate Student Government will actively pursue collaboration with local organizations (such as TEN, the Transportation Equity Network), and city officials to support the promotion of sustainable transportation and the increased accessibility of Divvy bikes in the Hyde Park and Chicago communities,

**BE IT RESOLVED** the Undergraduate Student Government, having thoroughly evaluated the potential advantages and opportunities associated with addressing the systemic lack of Divvy stations on the east side of campus and near critical locations, as well as the need for a widely-available student discount membership, will collaborate with relevant university stakeholders and Divvy to enact these changes, in order to streamline the student experience, improve transportation accessibility, and promote environmentally friendly commuting options on campus.