



“Take Back the Night March”

Proposed Motions: Request of \$750 for Take Back the Night March permit fee.

Sponsor: *Mayra Guizar, VP for Diversity*

Persons of Contact: *Sara Wozniak, Emily Hanna, Matt Smith*

Guest Speaker: *TBD (Mayra or Matt)*

Date: *April 3rd, 2014*

Background & Context

Take Back the Night, a popular annual event put on by the Women’s Center, has historically featured a march downtown after the rally that brings together 200-400 people of marginalized gender identities. This year, with no prior warning, the Women’s Center discovered while working to acquire the march permit from Bellingham Police Department, that a fee of \$1500 was being added to march permits. Despite our non-profit status and the fact that the event brings in no revenue, this cost still applies to us. It was completely unanticipated and we were never informed of the change, despite the fact that the event happens every year and has always been free of charge, given that it is a 1.5 hour march and only typically needs 4-6 officers. After communicating with Chief Cook of Bellingham Police Department, he has agreed to charge us half the cost for this year, \$750, with the rest to be covered by the city, and also with the assumption that we must assume a \$1500 cost for next year.

For next year, we are requesting \$1500 for E194, Professional Licenses/Permits, to cover the necessary cost of the march. Requesting this amount is not really a choice if the march aspect of this event is to happen, but hopefully we can arrange some sort of exception with the city.

Summary of Proposal

We are requesting \$750 in funding from the Board to cover the cost of acquiring a march permit, either through the Operational Enhancement budget or AS Board Reserves, with the understanding that we should communicate with BPD and the city after the event to attempt to get an exception to this cost, given that we are a non-profit and bring in new revenue. As this affects university events besides Take Back the Night, it could be that someone higher up does this communication.

Fiscally

Fiscally, this proposal would draw \$750 from the Operational Enhancement budget or AS Board reserves to go to the E194 account.

Rationale

The march is a very important aspect of the event, as it brings to action what is talked about in the rally. It is always an aspect of the event that people love. Given that the Take Back the Night budget has already been stretched thin by bringing Staceyann Chin with Management Council funding and the Diversity fund, among others, we do not have the ability to pay for this unanticipated cost. A march without police and without the consequent lane closure is not possible, because it would not be logistically feasible to expect such a large group of people to be only on the sidewalk. In addition, as the point of the march is to “shatter the silence and stop the violence,” having a march through campus at 8:30pm does not fulfill the goal of the event, nor is it a good use of funds.

Given that there already has been much investment in this event through bringing Staceyann Chin, not having the march would seriously damage the event.

In addition, given that the march has already been advertised through posters, handbills, and in-class announcements, the AS should give its best effort to fulfill what has already been advertised.