



For Immediate Release:

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Delta Gamma Honors Zeta Phi-Cambridge Area's Request to Close

Columbus, Ohio – In May 2018, Zeta Phi-Cambridge Area (formerly Zeta Phi-Harvard) voted to relinquish its charter. Shortly thereafter, the 2016-2018 Fraternity Council voted to accept the vote of relinquishment, initiating what is known as the 60-day period for Zeta Phi. Members were encouraged to submit letters, either in support of or in opposition to, the proposed action of closing the chapter.

At the conclusion of the 60-day period, and after great deliberation and consideration, the 2018-2020 Fraternity Council voted unanimously to honor the chapter's request to close Zeta Phi chapter.

"This decision does not mean that we are succumbing to the University's new sanctions and policies regarding participation in unrecognized single-gender organizations like ours," said Fraternity President **Wilma Johnson Wilbanks**. "We will continue to champion our right to exist on campuses everywhere. We believe the value of sorority is too great."

A chapter closure ceremony will be planned. All Zeta Phi members, alumnae and new members will be invited to attend.

Delta Gamma women have made great impacts on campus since the chapter was established in 1994. It is our sincere hope to return to the Cambridge Area should conditions for single-gender organizations improve.

"On behalf of the Fraternity Council, I would like to thank our collegians and alumnae for the courage they have shown throughout the last several years. We respect the chapter's decision and understand that the University's sanctions resulted in an environment in which Delta Gamma could not thrive. We sincerely hope this changes in the future," said Wilbanks.

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About Delta Gamma Delta Gamma Fraternity was founded in 1873 at the Lewis School in Oxford, Mississippi. The objects of the Fraternity shall be to foster high ideals of friendship among women, to promote their educational and cultural interests, to create in them a true sense of social responsibility and to develop in them the best qualities of character. Today we have more than 250,000 initiated members, 150 collegiate chapters and more than 200 alumnae groups. Delta Gamma Fraternity Executive Offices is in Columbus, Ohio.

About Zeta Phi chapter The "Harvard Annex," a private program for the instruction of women by faculty at Harvard, was founded in 1879 after prolonged efforts by women to gain access to Harvard College failed. In subsequent years, after discussions with Harvard about admitting women directly in to the University did not come to fruition, the Annex was modified and chartered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as Radcliffe College in 1894. In 1923, Ada Comstock, an initiate of Lambda-Minnesota chapter of Delta Gamma, and a leader in the movement to provide women with higher education, became the college's third president. In the early 1940s, she negotiated a new relationship with Harvard that vastly expanded women's access to the full Harvard course catalog. In 1963, joint Harvard-Radcliffe diplomas were conferred, with full integration with Harvard completed in 1999. The first contact made by Delta Gamma to explore an opportunity to open a chapter for women at Harvard-Radcliffe was in 1987. The chapter was installed, with 12 new members, the weekend of November 11-12, 1994. Since that time, 781 women have been initiated into Zeta Phi.