

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2021-1004

TITLE: Resolution requesting that the State of Florida review Pedestrian Safety Measures in and around the University of Florida Campus

AUTHOR(S): Senator Faith Allen, Senator Evan Begley, Majority Party Leader Blake Robinson, Judiciary Vice Chairman Thomas Wildermuth, Senator Noah Fineberg, Judiciary Chairman Franco Luis, Senator Jason Scheuer

SPONSORS: Student Body President Trevor Pope, External Affairs Director Will Sandifer, Senator Spencer Bober, Senator Georgia Seacrest, Senator Jewelia Bradley, Senator Rebekah Shields, Senator Kaitlyn Cullen, Senator Jake Hagan, Senator Anna Bernstein, Senator Casey Mason

WHEREAS, on December 9th, 2020, Maggie Paxton, a freshman year University of Florida student was killed in a hit and run and on January 16th, 2021, a car accident killed Sophia Lambert and injured five others [1]; and,

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of Sophia Lambert's death, there has been an outcry from the UF student body for pedestrian traffic safety changes; and,

WHEREAS, members of the community have proposed ideas to lower the speed limit, put up barriers between the sidewalk and the road, add more lighting, and install more cameras; and,

WHEREAS, West University Avenue, a stretch of State Road 26, is a state-owned and maintained road frequently traveled by vehicles and pedestrians alike with a speed limit of 35 miles per hour; and,

WHEREAS, all crosswalks throughout and around campus should be evaluated to ensure better safety for pedestrians and University of Florida students, along with residents of Gainesville and university faculty; and,

WHEREAS, the risk of fatality on foot in the State of Florida is significantly higher than any other state [2]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the need to implement changes along all crosswalks surrounding the University of Florida to ensure the safety of all students.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate supports the efforts of UFPD in combating the issues of traffic safety with their Gator Special Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP).

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages the City of Gainesville, Florida Department of Transportation, and the State of Florida to act swiftly to implement additional changes that ensure the safety of students and Gainesville citizens.

[1] <https://www.wcjb.com/2021/01/18/update-three-university-of-florida-students-hit-by-car-released-from-hospital-uf-mourns-loss/>

[2] <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/article224923045.html>

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Gainesville Mayor Lauren Poe, Gainesville Commissioner David Arreola, State Senator Keith Perry, UF Police Department Chief Linda J. Stump-Kurnick, Governor Ron DeSantis, Florida Secretary of Transportation Kevin J. Thibault, DOT Secretary Greg Evans, Florida House Member Chuck Brannan, Florida House Member Yvonne Hayes Hinson, UF President Kent W. Fuchs, Congresswoman Kat Cammack, Florida House Member Chuck Clemons, Senator Marco Rubio, Senator Rick Scott, Vice President of Government and Community Relations Mark Kaplan, Associate Vice President and Dean of Students Heather White, Gainesville Commissioner Gail Johnson, Gainesville Commissioner Helen K. Warren, Gainesville Commissioner Harvey Ward, Gainesville Commissioner Adrian Hayes-Santos, Gainesville Commissioner Reina Saco, Alachua County Commissioner Mary Alford, Alachua County Commissioner MariHelen Wheeler, Alachua County Commissioner Anna Prizzia, Alachua County Commissioner Ken Cornell, Alachua County Commissioner Charles S. “Chuck” Chesnut, UF Panhellenic President Martha McCullough, UF IFC President Pierce Statham