

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2020-1059

TITLE: Resolution Supporting Increased University Avenue Crosswalks

AUTHOR(S): Senator Marcus Nelson

SPONSOR(S): Black Student Union Community Affairs

WHEREAS, University Avenue represents the northern boundary between the University of Florida and the rest of Gainesville, Florida; and,

WHEREAS, several University-owned buildings stand north of University Avenue, including the Institutes for Black Culture and Hispanic-Latino Culture, as well as the iDigBio Building; and,

WHEREAS, many UF students live north of University Avenue, and must cross the street in order to arrive on campus and return home; and,

WHEREAS, University Avenue along the UF campus features few signaled intersections with crosswalks and no midblock crossings; and,

WHEREAS, students have been forced to contend with high speed automobile traffic and long signal timers while attempting to cross University Avenue; and,

WHEREAS, Denise Griffiths, an English major, student advocate and prominent member of the black community at UF, passed away at the age of 21 on January 29, 2020 after being struck by a vehicle while crossing University Avenue [1]; and,

WHEREAS, a student petition has been created in support of constructing additional crosswalks and signals on University Avenue [2]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Campus Framework Plan calls for the area north of University Avenue to serve as a gateway to the UF campus [3]; and,

WHEREAS, additional infrastructure is necessary along University Avenue to ensure the safety of students and pedestrians; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the importance of student safety, particularly during pedestrian activity.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate expresses its support for the construction of a crosswalk and signals across University Avenue at NW 16th Street.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages the continued improvement of University Avenue for pedestrian activity, and

calls upon Administration and the city of Gainesville to make these improvements for the betterment of student safety.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President W. Kent Fuchs, Transportation & Parking Services Director Scott Fox, TAPS Associate Director Ron Fuller, and TAPS Transportation Manager Jeremiah McInnis.

[1] https://www.alligator.org/news/article_0e1f514e-461f-11ea-8d78-174be4fea772.html

[2] <https://www.change.org/p/students-of-university-of-florida-build-a-crosswalk-between-baptist-ministry-and-george-smathers-library>

[3] https://www.facilities.ufl.edu/plan/docs/19_1031_UF_CampusFrameworkPlan.pdf