

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2021-1018:

TITLE: Resolution Recognizing Anti-Asian Hate

AUTHOR(S): Senator Hannah Kim

SPONSORS: Student Body President-elect Cooper Brown, Student Body Vice President-elect Faith Maniti, Senate President Franco Luis, Senate President Pro-Tempore Blake Robinson, Chairwoman Elizabeth Hartzog, Senator Simon Jee, Member-at-Large Aaron Arriaga, Senator Samantha Nukala, Senator Joseph Kwan, Senator Airi Latras, Senator Jasun Choi, Senator Spencer Bober, Senator Akash Patel, Senator Adeel Markatia, Senator Krish Talati, Senator Mady Dorworth, Senator John Brinkman, Senator Ryan Rosenfelt, Senator Darren Peters, Majority Party Leader Jason Scheuer, Senate Judiciary Committee

WHEREAS, on December 23, 2020, a 30-year old Filipino Navy veteran Angelo Quinto died in Antioch, CA after police kneeled on his neck for five minutes after being called for a mental health crisis [1]; and,

WHEREAS, on December 30, 2020, a 19-year old Chinese American man Christian Hall died in Monroe County, PA after he was fatally shot by the police, in response to a call of a suicide attempt [2]; and,

WHEREAS, on January, 28, 2021, an 84-year old Thai man Vichar Ratanapakdee, was killed in San Francisco, CA after being shoved to the ground while going on a walk, hitting his head on the pavement [3]; and,

WHEREAS, on February 3, 2021, a 61-year old Filipino man Noel Quintana had his face slashed from ear to ear in New York City, NY as he was inside a subway train [4]; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2021, eight individuals were shot in a string of attacks against Asian-owned day spas in Georgia (Young's Asian Massage, Gold Spa, Aroma Therapy Spa): Soon Chung Park, Hyun Jung Grant, Suncha Kim, Yong Ae Yue, Xiaojie Tan, and Daoyou Feng [5]; and,

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2021, the Asian American Student Union released a community statement and Call to Action in requesting changes and resources in improving the systems in which uplift all marginalized students at the University of Florida; and,

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2021, a 65-year old Filipino woman was beaten to the ground and repeatedly stomped on, on her route to church in Manhattan, NYC as bystanders walked away and closed doors on her in response [6]; and,

WHEREAS, UF students and the Gainesville Asian community came together in mourning of recent events in a vigil in Turlington Plaza [7]; and,

WHEREAS, in continuation, several protests and demonstrations were created in 2021 to march and stand in solidarity for the deaths and abuse of people of color who have went unrecognized throughout the years; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate stands in solidarity with the Asian community and recognizes the history in which racial hate crimes have stemmed from.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate advocates for the safety and protection of all marginalized students and will do everything within their power in creating a campus that uplifts these individuals.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that anti-Asian hate crimes, as well as xenophobia, are and have been ongoing issues throughout universities across the nation and the University of Florida condemns any acts of racial hate crimes towards students, staff, and any other individuals within our community.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to President W. Kent Fuchs, Provost Joseph Glover, Associate Vice-President & University Dean of Students Heather White, Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. D'Andra Mull, Vice President of Human Resources Jodi Gentry, UF Police Department Chief Linda J. Stump-Kurnick, Director of Asian Pacific Islander Desi Affairs Jack Nguyen, Student Body President Cooper Brown, and Asian American Student Union Presidents Britney Rengert and Zachary Raad

[1] <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/angelo-quinto-navy-veteran-death-police/>

[2] <https://www.lehighvalleylive.com/news/2021/03/christian-halls-unjustified-killing-was-a-call-for-help-met-with-bullets-attorney-says.html>

[3] <https://www.cnn.com/2021/02/16/us/san-francisco-vicha-ratanapakdee-asian-american-attacks/index.html>

[4] <https://people.com/crime/filipino-american-man-recounts-brutal-attack-with-box-cutter-on-n-y-c-subway-nobody-helped/>

[5] <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-56446771>

[6] <https://www.9news.com.au/national/vicious-attack-on-filipino-woman-sparks-outrage/24ed4e5b-39ed-4be3-b341-eb9afe4ddee2>

[7] <https://www.alligator.org/article/2021/03/invisible-for-too-long-gainesvilles-chinese-american-community-mourns-victims-of-atlanta-spa-shootings>