

Student Senate

3000 J. Wayne Reitz Union PO Box 118505 Gainesville, FL 32611 352-392-1665

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1076

TITLE: Resolution Commemorating Maggie Paxton and Sophia Lambert, Advocating for Improved Pedestrian Safety and Instruction During First-Year Preview

AUTHOR(S): Senator Aaron Amster

SPONSOR(S): Florida Not One More President Mackenzie Farkas, Senator Reese Marcus Deputy Majority Party Leader Julia Siefer, Senator Noor Azeem, Senator Conor Ruffin, Senator Saketh Damera, Senator Christian Jubran, Senator Gabi Prieto, Senator Halle Burton, Senator Joah Levine, Senator Angelina Fentress, Senator Emma Antonik, Senator Marian Enriquez, Senator Aditi Sarkar, Senator Megan McGuire, Senator Tyler Robson, Senator Jonathan Bedine, Senator Annabella Vigna, Senator Kishan Nayak, Senator LJ Bryan, Senator Aleah Henley, Senator Bianca Onorato, Senator Samantha Kinggard, Senator Zach Arzt, Senator Owen Lekebusch, Senator Nathaniel Thomas, Senator Laurie Wang, Senator Roman Quattrochi, Senator Isabel Penin, Senator Monish Vijayaraghavan, Senator Abi Whitaker, Senator Laurel Wentworth, Senator Ayesha Khuddus, Senator Damian Rodriguez, Senator Thomas Watson Hewitt III, Senator Isabel Ponce, Senator Coe Leavengood, Senator Nadia White

WHEREAS, Maggie Paxton and Sophia Lambert, two dedicated and beloved students at the University of Florida, tragically lost their lives in separate traffic accidents on University Avenue on December 9, 2020 and January 16, 2021, respectively [1][2]; and,

WHEREAS, Maggie and Sophia's vibrant lives and untimely passings have left an indelible impact on their families, friends, and the University of Florida community [3]; and,

WHEREAS, the three-year anniversaries of these tragic events remind us of the ongoing need for improved pedestrian safety in our community [4]; and,

WHEREAS, there remains a need for increased pedestrian safety instruction for incoming students at the University of Florida [5]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate hereby commemorates the lives of Maggie Paxton and Sophia Lambert, recognizing their contributions and the profound loss felt by their passings.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be shared with Maggie Paxton's and Sophia Lambert's families as a symbol of our collective sorrow, respect,

and commitment to preventing future tragedies.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon state and local authorities to prioritize and implement enhanced pedestrian safety measures on University Avenue, including but not limited to improved crosswalks, traffic calming measures, and enhanced lighting.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate requests for there to be a discussion on pedestrian safety tips during First-Year students' Preview.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution be distributed to relevant state, local, and campus officials, urging them to take immediate and effective action to improve pedestrian safety on University Avenue.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the University of Florida President Ben Sasse, the Florida Secretary of Transportation Jared W. Perdue, the University of Florida Department of Transportation and Parking Services Director Scott Fox, the City of Gainesville Mayor Harvey Ward, the Gainesville Police Department Chief Lonnie Scott Sr., the Delta Phi Epsilon President Amanda Green, the Kappa Kappa Gamma President Emily Wilson, and the University of Florida Police Department Chief Linda J. Stump-Kurnick

[1]https://www.gainesville.com/story/news/2021/01/17/uf-student-sophia-lambert-19-killed-university-av

enue-crash-friday/4198415001/

[2]https://www.alligator.org/article/2021/07/man-arrested-after-paxton-death

[3]https://www.thepalmettopanther.com/remembering-sophia-lambert-a-bright-light-to-all/

[4]https://www.wcjb.com/2021/01/20/mother-of-daughter-killed-on-university-avenue-speaks-out-followi

ng-second-students-death/

[5]https://welcome.ufl.edu/orientation/first-year/

John Brinkman

Senate President

2/1/2024