

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1479

TITLE: Resolution Commemorating the Life of Sonya Massey

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SPONSOR(S): Senator Hunter Monson, Deputy Minority Party Leader Isha Khan, Senator Danielle Loftis, Senator Tue Tran, Senator Gregory Nobleza, Senator Kayla Goldstein, Senator Austin Britton, Senator Annika Singh, Senator Anjali Natarajan, Senate President Pro Tempore Blake Cox, Mental Health Ad Hoc Chairman Hunter Monson, Information & Communications Chairwoman Laurel Wentworth, Senator Gregory Nobleza, Senator Andrew Larsen, Senator Annika Singh, Senator Kayla Goldstein, Senator Antonio Hendricks, Senate President Monish Vijayaraghavan, Senator Mitchell McGruder, Senator Sarah Hoffer, Senator Kishan Nayak, Senator Ella Furman, Senator Anna Markos, Senator Arshan Falasiri, Senator Alex Wierichs, Senator Maya Idiculla, Senator Donal Bissainte, Senator Ravi Panchigar, Senator Ben Stone, Senator Sienna Silvest, Senator Joshua Yaciuk, Senator Jaxen Ranson, Senator Danielle Loftis, Senator Sophia Kolcun, Senator Fahim Islam, Senator Tyler Schoeberlein, Senator Tue Tran

WHEREAS, on July 6th, 2024, in Springfield, Illinois, Sonya Massey was fatally killed in a shooting by a deputy sheriff [1]; and,

WHEREAS, Sonya Massey was a mother of two and has been described by her friends and family as very loving and caring [2]; and,

WHEREAS, Massey was unemployed, struggled with mental illness, and had previously sought related treatment [2]; and,

WHEREAS, on July 6th, 2024, Massey called the police over concerns that an intruder was active in her neighborhood [3]; and,

WHEREAS, Sangamon County deputy sheriff Sean Grayson and another deputy arrived at Massey's house, inspected the premises, and then entered the house [3]; and,

WHEREAS, the deputies were aware of Massey's mental illness [3]; and,

WHEREAS, upon noticing a boiling pot of water, the deputies instructed Massey to remove the pot [3]; and,

WHEREAS, Massey told the officers that she rebukes them in the name of Jesus, prompting Grayson to threaten Massey, saying “I’ll f**king shoot you in the f**king face”, and to “drop the f**king pot” [3]; and,

WHEREAS, Grayson drew his firearm and fatally shot Massey three times in the face [3]; and,

WHEREAS, after killing Massey, Grayson expressed a lack of concern when his partner went to retrieve a medical kit and Grayson told him several times not to treat her or “waste their medical supplies” [3]; and,

WHEREAS, speaking to a group of officers outside, Grayson confirms he was not harmed by saying “Yeah, I’m good, this f**king b*tch is crazy” [3]; and,

WHEREAS, Grayson had a criminal record of multiple DUI charges, which in the state of Florida would have barred him from being a police officer [4]; and,

WHEREAS, the death of Sonya Massey is one of many fatal incidents of police brutality targeted at black individuals in the United States [5]; and,

WHEREAS, police violence is a leading cause of death for young black people in the US, with approximately 1 in every 1000 black men being killed by the police [6]; and,

WHEREAS, many are calling upon lawmakers to implement the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which lowers the criminal intent standard to convict a law enforcement officer, limits qualified immunity for officers, and grants administrative subpoena power to the DOJ [7]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate affirms the need for Sean Grayson to be held accountable for his role in the death of Sonya Massey in a court of law; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate affirms the need for the implementation of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate acknowledges her wrongful death and commemorates the life of Sonya Massey.

Proviso: Senator Emeritus Hana Ali is recognized as a co-author of this resolution.

[1] <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/7/24/sonya-massey-shooting-what-we-know-about-the-killing-the-victim-officer>

[2] <https://apnews.com/article/illinois-sonya-massey-deputy-shooting-grayson-01b91fa1731da8007cff693206cad2bc>

[3] <https://www.cnn.com/2024/07/24/us/sean-grayson-illinois-police-officer-shooting-sonya-massey/index.html>

[4] [https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/CJSTC/Professional-Compliance/Frequently-Asked-Questions.aspx#:~:text=Answer%3A%20Pursuant%20to%20943.13\(4,in%20the%20State%20of%20Florida.](https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/CJSTC/Professional-Compliance/Frequently-Asked-Questions.aspx#:~:text=Answer%3A%20Pursuant%20to%20943.13(4,in%20the%20State%20of%20Florida.)

[5] <https://19thnews.org/2024/07/sonya-massey-body-camera-footage-outrage-police-violence/>

[6] <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1280>

[7] <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2021.01394>



8/12/24

Monish Vijayaraghavan
Senate President

Date