**CONDOLENCE #1F 2021 FALL SESSION**

**Legislative Action:**

Introduced by**:** Senator R. Harper (A)(S)(E)

1st Reading: 8/25/2021 Referred To: Steering and Rules

2nd Reading: 9/1/2021 Committee Action: 5-0-0-0

3rd Reading:\_\_\_\_\_\_ Senate Action: 20-0-0-0

**Executive Action**:

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ASUNM President Date

WHEREAS, the Associated Students of the University of New Mexico (ASUNM) is the representative body of the undergraduate students and promotes student success; and

WHEREAS, Bennie Hargrove, a thirteen (13) year-old student at Washington Middle School in Albuquerque, New Mexico (NM), was killed in an act of gun violence while defending fellow students from bullying and harassment, working to de-escalate a violent confrontation during his school lunch on August 14, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Bennie Hargrove was acting to intervene in a situation involving a classmate beating up another **student** in the school’s outdoor areas, telling them to stop and exhibiting exceptionally virtuous conduct, at which point he was shot with a firearm his classmate had taken from ~~his~~ **their** household and concealed, as stated by police reports; and

WHEREAS, many members of the Albuquerque community have been united as of recently in grieving the loss of Bennie Hargrove, working to honor his life and memory, as well as to address the unfortunate conditions which have led to this and similar acts of violence in many ways; and

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RECOGNIZED, that ASUNM acknowledges the life and achievements made by Bennie Hargrove~~;~~ and the ways in which his death has affected his family, friends, teachers, and others; and

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RECOGNIZED, that ASUNM acknowledges the unfortunate and terrible nature of these events, and will take into consideration the necessary actions to prevent future incidents related to gun violence, including that which may take place on legal and social levels; and

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RECOGNIZED, that ASUNM supports and promotes efforts to bring together members of the community and honor the life of Bennie Hargrove, and believes that considering a proposal to rename the school Hargrove attended in his honor would be a strong gesture; and

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RECOGNIZED, that ASUNM honors Bennie Hargrove and the highly meaningful friendship and positive conduct he brought to his community and family every day as a role model for others, and mourns his loss, wishing his family, school, and greater community the best in their healing; and

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE DECREED, that a copy of this Condolence is forwarded to Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller, Albuquerque Public Schools, Washington Middle School, **UNM Board of Regents,** UNM President Garnett Stokes, ~~UNM Board of Regents,~~ UNM ~~Associate~~ **Interim** Vice President of Student ~~Services~~ **Affairs** Tim Gutierrez, the Daily Lobo, and the UNM undergraduate student body.

**Fundraising Link Posted by Bennie Hargrove’s Family for Funeral Expenses:** [**https://www.gofundme.com/f/brave-bennie**](https://www.gofundme.com/f/brave-bennie)

**Change.org Petition to Rename Washington Middle School in Bennie Hargrove’s Honor:** [**http://chng.it/JBCVjjT5nc**](http://chng.it/JBCVjjT5nc)