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SENATE MEMORIAL 12

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION AND THE STATE PARKS DIVISION OF THE ENERGY,
MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO IDENTIFY AND
RECOMMEND A PUBLIC LOCATION TO COMMEMORATE THE LIFE AND WORK OF
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CIVIL RIGHTS ADVOCATE ANDRES "DRE"
ARELLANES.

WHEREAS, Andres Arellanes, who died in 2023 at the age of
thirty-six, was a proud native New Mexican who fought bravely
and tirelessly as a social justice advocate for civil rights
and police reform and against the unlawful use of force by law
enforcement; and

WHEREAS, in July of 2010, Andres Arellanes settled a civil
rights lawsuit with the city of Albuquerque over an incident
that occurred in 2007 in which he was confronted on the street

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1 in downtown Albuquerque by a group of city and state law
2 enforcement officers and was tasered at least six and up to
3 eighteen times and then charged with assault against law
4 enforcement officers. Those charges were eventually dismissed
5 after an official independent review determined that officers
6 involved in the incident lied to a grand jury; and

7 WHEREAS, after that incident, Arellanes and his family
8 worked tirelessly as advocates against unlawful police violence
9 and for reform of use-of-force policies by law enforcement,
10 leading to significant reforms in those policies not only in
11 Albuquerque, but also at the state and national levels; and

12 WHEREAS, the efforts of Andres Arellanes and his family to
13 secure justice in his case, along with other similar efforts
14 that followed, caused the United States department of justice
15 to investigate the use of force by the Albuquerque police
16 department, which eventually led that agency to investigate law
17 enforcement use-of-force standards and procedures nationwide,
18 and helped lead to reforms on the local, state and national
19 levels, particularly as those standards apply to taser use of
20 force; and

21 WHEREAS, in 2021, following widespread public attention
22 focused on the issue of police violence and use of force by law
23 enforcement and a movement that was sparked by the advocacy and
24 social justice work of Andres Arellanes and other victims of
25 unlawful police violence, the United Nations issued new

1 guidelines and procedures for use of force and firearms by
2 United Nations police, and those standards have had a
3 significant impact on law enforcement policies worldwide; and

4 WHEREAS, the advocacy and social justice work of Arellanes
5 and his family over many years took courage to accomplish, has
6 led to substantial changes to the use-of-force policies in
7 local, national and international police departments and has
8 likely helped save countless lives across the United States and
9 around the world;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
11 OF NEW MEXICO that the general services department, the
12 department of transportation and the energy, minerals and
13 natural resources departments each be requested to identify and
14 recommend to the legislative finance committee a location, such
15 as a state park, campground, roadway, landscaped area in front
16 of a state building or other appropriate location, to
17 commemorate the life and work of Andres "Dre" Arellanes; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the legislative finance committee, the general
20 services department, the department of transportation and the
21 energy, minerals and natural resources department.