



# Sigma Lambda Upsilon

Señoritas Latinas Unidas Sorority, Inc.

**For Immediate Release**

**July 2, 2018**

## **Violence in Our Communities — Justice for Junior**

*New York, NY* - Last month, the New York community of the Bronx experienced the horrific death of 15-year-old Lesandro “Junior” Guzman-Feliz, who was brutally murdered by gang members outside a bodega after being mistaken for someone else. Thousands have stopped by the bodega to pay their respects for Junior and his family and even gathered on Wednesday, June 27th for the funeral service.

This event has triggered, not just the Bronx, but communities alike to take a stance against gang violence and think about improving the safety of the overall communities. Lawmakers are now being pressured to look more closely at the street violence and fund initiatives to end gangs.

Junior, an aspiring NYPD detective, was slashed, stabbed, and dragged out the bodega before being left to fend for himself. No one nearby, including the bodega’s management, helped Junior or called 911. Instead, Junior tried walking to the local hospital before collapsing on the sidewalk. NYPD has said this investigation on this case is ongoing. With the power of the internet, the surveillance video of the incident circulated online almost immediately and people stood together demanding #JusticeForJunior not only on social media, but calling the NYPD and moving celebrities to also take a stand.

The Hermanas of Sigma Lambda Upsilon/Señoritas Latinas Unidas Sorority, Incorporated recognize this tragedy and give our deepest condolences to Junior’s family, friends, and community. This has become national story causing outrage across communities alike. We encourage these communities to find resources and ways to improve their communities for the sake of the youth in our communities. Our kids deserve safe communities to grow up in, attend school, and freely enjoy the outdoors --without the terror of being killed or assaulted.

“While we are very saddened by the loss of Junior, it’s our feelings of sadness and outrage that unify us. We must try to use the strength of our united voice to fuel the work that must be done henceforth,”

- Gloria M. Calderon, National President of Sigma Lambda Upsilon/Señoritas Latinas Unidas Sorority, Inc.

### [Resources]

- [Gang Prevent Efforts](#) - Youth.gov
- [Effects of Community Violence on Children and Teens](#) - National Center of PTSD
- [Fact Sheet for PTSD in Children and Teens](#) - National Center of PTSD
- [Bystander Intervention Program and Resources](#) - Step Up! Program

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Sigma Lambda Upsilon/Señoritas Latinas Unidas Sorority, Inc., founded on December 1, 1987, on the campus of Binghamton University, provides sisterhood and support while also promoting academic achievement, service to the community, leadership and cultural enrichment to college-educated and professional women dedicated to uplifting traditionally marginalized communities. Since its establishment, the organization has expanded to over 50 schools across the country, touching the lives of more than 1,000 women.

For more information visit, please visit <http://www.sigmalambdaupsilon.org>.