



Forward Latino is a non-profit, non-partisan advocacy and service organization dedicated to assisting Latinos pursuing the American Dream.

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
April 22, 2021

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LATINO COMMUNITY WINS!
FEDERAL HATE CRIME CHARGES LEAD TO GUILTY PLEA BY DRIVER WHO RAN OVER
14-YEAR-OLD GIRL BECAUSE SHE WAS "A MEXICAN."

Franklin, WI: Forward Latino, a national non-profit, non-partisan advocacy and service organization with members in 29 states applauds the decision by the United States Attorney's Office of the Southern District of Iowa for filing hate crime charges against Ms. Nicole Poole, who admitted to running over a 14-year-old girl because she was "a Mexican." On Wednesday, April 21, 2021 in Federal Court, Poole pleaded guilty to the charge and a second charge for running over a 12-year-old boy who is Black.

Darryl Morin, Forward Latino National President issued the following statement:

"Once again we send our thoughts and prayers to the victims and the families who have been forever traumatized by these vicious acts of hate. They can now begin their healing journey knowing that justice will be served.

Forward Latino advocated on behalf of the family of the 14-year-old girl at the family's request. From personally traveling to Des Moines, Iowa to meet with the U.S. Attorney and his staff, to the numerous letters and phone calls throughout the year, we were determined to have these charges filed acknowledging this as "an act of hate."

I would like to thank Forward Latino Vice President Joe Henry, our legal advisors Attorney Craig Mastantuono of Mastantuono & Coffee, SC and Attorney Mark Thomsen of Gingras Thomsen & Wachs for their legal expertise and guidance. I would also like to thank our outstanding partners at LULAC of Iowa. It was truly a collective effort."

Hate crimes against Hispanics have grown significantly over the last four years with the incident in Iowa, and the shootings in El Paso and Gilroy receiving national attention.

Individuals who feel they may have been a victim of an act of hate can contact Forward Latino at (833)LAT-INO1 or via Forward Latino's website at https://forwardlatino.org/civil-rights-violation for a confidential consultation.

About Forward Latino:

Forward Latino is a non-profit, non-partisan advocacy and service organization dedicated to assisting Latinos pursuing the American Dream. Forward Latino fulfills its mission through advocacy, civic engagement, education and service delivery. Forward Latino currently has members in 29 states. Learn more at www.forwardlatino.org .

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