

July 28, 2025

CONTACT:

ROTHSTEIN DONATELLI LLP
CAREY C. BHALLA & MARC M. LOWRY
500 4th Street NW, Suite 400
Albuquerque, NM 87121
cbhalla@rothsteinlaw.com
mlowry@rothsteinlaw.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBUQUERQUE, NM: The LaMotte family is saddened and suffering from the unexpected death of their son, Michael LaMotte, who was gunned down by an active shooter at the University of New Mexico (“UNM”) campus on July 25, 2025. Michael was a kind-hearted 14-year-old boy, and his passing is a tremendous tragedy to the family and our community.

The LaMotte family, through counsel, are investigating the events that occurred on UNM’s campus to determine precisely what happened in the moments leading up to Michael’s untimely death. While the family is mourning the loss of their son, they have reason to believe neither UNM nor law enforcement responded to this shooting in a timely manner. In the early hours of July 25, 2025, Michael’s mother—Ms. LaMotte—called 911 about the shooting. The dispatch officer referred her to UNM Police Department (“UNM PD”). When Ms. LaMotte reported to UNM PD that Michael may have been the victim of a shooting, UNM PD did not respond. **Hours** passed between Ms. LaMotte’s initial calls to law enforcement and the police arriving at the dorm room in which the shooting took place. This lengthy delay demonstrates that the incident was not handled with the appropriate level of seriousness demanded by an active shooter on a college campus.

The failure of police and UNM to take Ms. LaMotte’s complaints seriously is unimaginable. In addition to the delayed reaction following Ms. LaMotte’s calls, law enforcement also failed to timely inform Ms. LaMotte about her son’s death. In fact, she first learned about his passing from local media outlets, despite the fact that she was on scene waiting to hear news of her son’s condition. The disorienting shock and grief of this tragedy combined with the manner in which information has been publicly released has caused indescribable frustration and sorrow for the family. Such actions by law enforcement and UNM have further aggravated the devastation of losing a child to such preventable violence on UNM’s campus.

While the LaMotte family is critical of law enforcement and UNM for how this case was handled, the family wishes to thank the New Mexico State Police for swiftly apprehending the shooter. The family respectfully requests privacy during this time of grief as they cope with this nightmare. The family asks that anyone with additional information about this tragic shooting, and all other inquiries regarding this case, contact the law offices of ROTHSTEIN DONATELLI LLP at (505) 243-1443.

###