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MASSACRE IN UVALDE

'I could've lost my baby girl'

Residents urge House committee to act on guns

By Benjamin Wermund
WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Eleven-year-old Miah Cerrillo told a House committee on Wednesday that she hid behind her fourth grade teacher's desk at Robb Elementary School as a gunman entered the room.

She heard the gunman tell her teacher "good night" as he shot her in the head. The gunman also shot her friend, who was next to her.

"I thought he was going to come back to the room, so I got a little blood and I put it all over me," Miah said in prerecorded testimony played during a House Oversight Committee hearing.

"I don't want it to happen again," she said, nodding her head when her father asked if she thought it would.

Miah's father, Miguel, also appeared before the committee in DC., crying as he pleaded for action.

"I come because I could've lost my baby girl," he said. "She's not the same little girl that I used to play with, hang around with and do everything, because she was daddy's little girl. I don't know what to do, because I think I would've lost my baby girl."

"I wish something would change, not only for our kids, but every single kid in the world, because schools are not safe anymore," he said. "Something needs to really change."

In emotional, raw testimony, other members of the Uvalde community also begged for Congress to act on gun laws hours before the House passed a sweeping package of gun reforms that are almost certain to go nowhere in the Senate.

A Uvalde pediatrician who was working in the ER where students were taken after they were shot at the school also testified, as did the parents of Lendi Rubio, a 10-year-old who was killed in the shooting. Her mother, Kimberly, told the committee about attending an award ceremony.

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Miguel Cerrillo of Uvalde, the father of Miah Cerrillo, a fourth-grade student at Robb Elementary, tears up as he tells a House Committee on Oversight and Reform hearing Wednesday, "schools are not safe anymore. Something needs to really change."

Town lays to rest yet another 'little angel'

By Megan Rodriguez
STAFF WRITER

A 10-year-old girl who loved the color blue, especially on butterflies, was remembered during a Wednesday funeral service before being buried at Hillcrest Cemetery.

Annabell Guadalupe Rodriguez — described in her obituary as a sweet girl who enjoyed watching TikTok and spending time with her family — was among the 19 children and two teachers killed by 19-year-old gunman Salvador Ramos at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde on May 24.

Annabell had just attended the award ceremony at Robb Elementary, where she earned a certificate for making the A-B honor roll.

A photo provided by her father, Jessie Rodriguez, 53, shows her holding her honor roll certificate and a music cer-



Flowers are brought out for 10-year-old Annabell Guadalupe Rodriguez as she was laid to rest Wednesday in Uvalde.

tificate and beaming from ear to ear. Rodriguez, a carpenter, said he left work as soon as he got word that his daughter's

school was the target of a mass shooting. He waited all day Tuesday for news of her fate. Rodriguez hadn't seen his daughter in three months.

He heard there was a 10-year-old at a hospital in San Antonio and held out hope that it was her.

Ultimately, he learned she was among the dead.

When the service for Annabell ended, men loaded flowers into a truck and mourners filed out, some standing near the hearse before getting into their vehicles to drive to the cemetery. More than 50 vehicles were in the procession.

Signs at her afternoon funeral at Rushing Estes-Knowles Mortuary said that media were not permitted inside the private ceremony.

Several police vehicles from Allen, Bedford, McKinney, Southlake and other Texas cities were in a parking lot across the street from the funeral, obstructing photographers' view.

The dozens of bikers who *Funeral continues on A9*

Businesses pan downtown split in maps

By Megan Stringer
STAFF WRITER

Last-minute protests from the downtown business community this week blew up months of careful planning and negotiation for a new City Council map.

Downtown San Antonio has been in District 1 for decades. But a new City Council map scheduled for approval this month split the area between District 1 and District 5 on the West Side.

Included in the draft map released in April, the change met no resistance from a redistricting committee appointed by members of the City Council.

The committee has been meeting regularly to redraw City Council district boundaries based on new U.S. Census numbers released last year.

But Richard Perez, president of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and former District 4 councilman, asked the committee Tuesday night to unify the central business district.

"The central business district's continued viability is important to the overall economic recovery and success of our community," Perez said. "We believe now is not the time to begin to slice off sections of the central business district and risk diminishing this

important economic engine."

It's important for downtown to have one voice, Perez later said. With one council person managing downtown's needs, they can give full attention to the area.

An initial committee vote approved the change narrowly, 12 to 9. If it remains in place, downtown will stay primarily within District 1. City Hall, the Children's Hospital of San Antonio, San Pedro Creek, Market Square, H-E-B headquarters and more would have shifted to District 5 in the original map.

An H-E-B spokesperson said the company was concerned when it realized —

just recently — its headquarters would have been split between District 1 and District 5. The company prefers to sit in a single council district rather than be cut in half.

"It's inconceivable to us that Frost could be separated from the rest of the central business district after being part of the central business district for 64 years," said Phil Green, Frost Bank CEO and chairman of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. "It seems like common sense that when steps are taken to keep neighborhoods and communities intact in council districts, the same efforts would be made for

Maps continues on A9

Man with gun arrested near Kavanaugh's home

By Mark Sherman, Michael Balsamo and Michael Kunzelman
ASSOCIATED PRESS



WASHINGTON — A man carrying a gun, a knife and zip ties was arrested Wednesday near Justice Brett Kavanaugh's house in Maryland after threatening to kill the justice. Nicholas John Roske, 26, of Sini Valley, Calif., was charged with the attempted murder of a Supreme Court justice. During a court hearing, he consented to remain in federal custody for now.

Roske was dressed in black when he arrived by taxi just after 1 a.m. outside Kavanaugh's home in the Washington suburb of Chevy Chase. He had a Glock 17 pistol, ammunition, a knife, zip ties, pepper spray, duct tape and other items that he told police he planned *Justice continues on A8*



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