

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

All Clients of The Simons Law Firm “Walk” After State Attorney Declines to File Charges After Pulse Crosswalk Arrests

ORLANDO, FL – April 24, 2026, The Simons Law Firm is pleased to announce no charges will be filed against the individuals arrested for using sidewalk chalk after the Florida Department of Transportation painted over the rainbow crosswalk.



For months, these individuals faced unnecessary legal scrutiny for the simple, peaceful act of using water-soluble chalk to restore color to a site that serves as a profound symbol of love, resilience, and remembrance for our community. The decision by the State Attorney’s Office to decline filing charges acknowledges what we have maintained from the beginning: the use of water-soluble sidewalk chalk to express solidarity at a memorial site is not a crime, but an expression of free speech.

"These individuals should never have been charged, and they certainly should never have spent a single moment in custody," said Blake Simons, founder of The Simons Law Firm. "When we criminalize the freedom of peaceful expression and the act of honoring those we have lost, we do a disservice to the very principles of justice and freedom of speech that we are sworn to protect. This was never a matter of public safety or criminal mischief; it was an attempt to intimidate those who are part of, or allies to, the LGBTQ+ community and their expression of love and equality"

The arrests, which occurred following the state’s decision to paint over the rainbow crosswalk, drew widespread condemnation as a heavy-handed response to peaceful protest. The Simons Law Firm remains committed to defending the civil rights of our clients and ensuring that the voices of our community are heard, protected, and respected.

We are gratified that the State Attorney has recognized the reality of these circumstances and ended these meritless prosecutions. The Simons Law Firm will continue to fight for the rights of all citizens to engage in peaceful expression without fear of state-sanctioned retaliation.

About The Simons Law Firm

The Simons Law Firm is dedicated to fighting for civil rights and ensuring that the voices of the community are heard. Founder Blake Simons stands at the forefront of advocacy,

challenging government overreach and defending the constitutional rights of individuals across Florida.

#

Media Contact:

Blake Simons

Founding Partner, The Simons Law Firm, PLLC

www.thesimonslawfirm.com

blake@thesimonslawfirm.com

689-666-3060