



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **SUPERINTENDENT SHAFER’S STATEMENT ON THE TRAGIC DEATH OF ROBERT CUADRA**

*18-year-old was a college-bound student who attended HARP Academy*

PATERSON – Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer released the following statement in reaction to the tragic shooting of Robert Cuadra, a college-bound senior at HARP Academy.

“The hearts of everyone in the Paterson Public Schools community are broken by the violent loss of this promising young man,” Shafer said. “Robert Cuadra was a dedicated honors student who looked forward to starting the next chapter of his life in college this fall. Robert cared for his family, and the reports that he was fatally shot while delivering groceries to his grandmother’s home speak to his character and add to the bitterness of his being taken away from us. We pray that Robert’s aunt, his grandmother, his mother, and the rest of his family find comfort during this most difficult time. May we all resolve to end the senseless violence that has taken so many good people like Robert.”

“We all mourn the loss of this incredible young man with a tremendously bright future. Everyone loved Robert. There are no words,” said HARP Academy Principal Kelli A. White. “He will be missed.”

Robert Cuadra was 18 years old when he passed away. At HARP Academy, he was an honors student who took classes at Rutgers University through the district’s dual enrollment program.

Robert is remembered as a hard-working, polite, humble and intelligent young man. He had a cooperative and sincere spirit. Robert was always willing to help others. He truly embraced HARP Academy’s motto of “Service Above Self.” During his freshman year of high school, Robert earned a full college scholarship which included room and board through the Give Back Scholarship Program. He was accepted to Montclair State University. Robert was an Upward Bound student at MSU and looked forward to attending the school in the fall.

During his three and half years at HARP Academy, Robert was an active member of the Interact Club. He participated in numerous service projects which included Breast Cancer and March of Dimes Walks, canned food and clothing drives, Habitat for Humanity-home construction, Leukemia/Lymphoma-coin collection, and The Heifer International Project.

Robert enjoyed boxing and he recently was teaching himself to play the guitar.

The thoughts and prayers of the Paterson Public Schools district are with Robert’s family and everyone who loved him.

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