



Karol V. Mason
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January 18, 2022

To: The John Jay College Community
Re: Congregation Beth Israel, Colleyville, Texas

Like many of you on January 15, I was saddened by the terrifying events at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas and relieved by the outcome.

I was saddened because peaceful congregants—simply coming together to share their faith during Sabbath services—were met with antisemitism and violence. Thankfully, through the courageous actions of the congregation, local law enforcement, and federal agencies, the situation was resolved without harm to innocent bystanders.

It's not lost on me and others that this senseless act of antisemitism and violence occurred when we were celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life. Throughout the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. King linked arms with Jewish leaders, activists, and students to fight hatred, bigotry, and intolerance. In that same spirit, I ask that we continue to link arms with the Jewish community in peaceful solidarity and condemnation of antisemitism.

It's understandable that this event could trigger feelings of anxiety, fear, or trauma, especially with members of the Jewish community. If you are experiencing these feelings, please make use of our counseling resources. Students can set up a confidential meeting with a trained mental health professional, free of charge, through our [Wellness Center](#). Faculty and staff can access free, confidential, emotional health and wellness services, through the [CUNY Work/Life Program](#).

Our work to fight antisemitism, racism, and bigotry in America is far from over. As a community committed to the study of justice, we must continue to raise our voices against hatred, because as Dr. King so eloquently said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karol V. Mason".

Karol V. Mason
President
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

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