



**Karol V. Mason**  
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October 28, 2022

To: The John Jay College Community  
Re: Incident Involving the Black Student Union

Recently, flyers promoting the Black Student Union's "Shades of Nude Brunch" were defaced with racial slurs and offensive language. These incidents have no place in our community and go against our College's [core values](#) of diversity, equity, integrity, justice, and respect.

This incident does not represent who we are and who we aspire to be. When I think of the inclusive events held regularly at our institution—events designed specifically to share the many different traditions, histories, cultures, perspectives, and challenges within our beautifully diverse community—I find myself uplifted and even more hopeful for a world free from racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, and homophobia. We have more work to do at our own College to make this aspiration a reality.

Please know that our administration takes this matter very seriously. Our Office of Public Safety is actively investigating the incident, and we will take appropriate actions once the investigation is complete.

If anyone in our community needs help processing their feelings, please make use of the [counseling resources](#) available. 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 services through our [CUNY Work/Life Program](#). I commend the BSU and other members of our community for reporting these acts and encourage anyone in our community facing or observing discriminatory behavior to do the same. You can email leadership directly or make use of campus resources, which are detailed [here](#).

John Jay College is, and will always be, a place where members of different races, religions, ethnicities, genders, and identities can come together, collaborate, and educate each other. We continually strive to offer a safe space where everyone can express themselves, contribute their unique talents, and ultimately fulfill their dreams. As the late Nelson Mandela stated, "The very fact that racism degrades both the perpetrator and the victim commands that, if we are true to our commitment to protect human dignity, we fight on until victory is achieved." I stand with the BSU and our collective college community as we continue to create a space where everyone feels welcomed.

Thank you,

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

Karol V. Mason  
President  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice