April 2, 2018

To the John Jay College Community:

It’s with great pride that I announce John Jay’s 2018 honorary degree recipients. Each of these internationally celebrated scholars has fought for the principles we hold dear at John Jay College—a fierce dedication to justice, an unwavering commitment to equality and a steadfast desire to create safer, more just communities.

Rashida Manjoo, an international human rights advocate, lawyer and Professor in the Department of Public Law at the University of Cape Town, has dedicated her life to challenging all forms of discrimination and oppression. Growing up in South Africa she spent her early years as an anti-apartheid activist and women’s liberation campaigner. Her activism and academic work lead to an appointment as United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women. For 15 years in this role, Manjoo worked with governments around the world, examining the causes and consequences of human rights violations against women, cultivating an understanding that women’s rights are human rights.

The work of Ronald V. Clarke, University Professor and Associate Director of the Center for Problem-Oriented Policing at Rutgers University School of Criminal Justice, has transformed the study of criminology for over four decades. His groundbreaking exploration of situational-crime prevention and crime analysis has advanced the justice discussion for policing practices worldwide. By using Clarke’s strategies and research, both our city and country have seen a significant reduction in crime, and we’ve created far safer communities.

We look forward to seeing you at the College’s 53rd Commencement, where Rashida Manjoo will receive her honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, and Ronald V. Clarke will receive his honorary degree of Doctor of Science. We’re thrilled that they’re joining the John Jay community of scholars. And, we’re truly excited to hear them address the Class of 2018. I hope their words inspire future generations of justice advocates to come.

Thank you,

Karol V. Mason
President