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August 13, 2020

To: The John Jay College Community

RE: Ongoing Racial Justice Series

As a community, a city, and a country we've had to navigate through some challenging times recently. The tragic death of George Floyd, and the six-year anniversary of the unrest in Ferguson following the death of Michael Brown, have brought us to a pivotal point in history. Although these events have been difficult, they've given us an incredible opportunity to become motivated and galvanized to create real change in public safety.

As I wrote back in [June](#), to respond to this moment and truly effect change, we need to hear from community leaders, law enforcement officers, activists, educators, and most notably, young people to chart a path forward.

In a concerted effort to listen and learn from one another surrounding issues of racial justice, our community has recently engaged in a number of forums discussing the path forward for John Jay—but there's still a great deal of work that needs to be done. We cannot resolve these deeply entrenched problems with one approach, one conversation, or one perspective. Instead we need a wide array of viewpoints and voices represented in these conversations—many of which have been and will be led by our own students, faculty, and staff—to bring about lasting change.

We're extremely fortunate to have recently established a [new partnership with the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives](#) (NOBLE). Through a series of roundtables, panels, and open forums, in collaboration with NOBLE, we hope to reimagine public safety and ensure equal justice for everyone.

Later this month, I'm also excited to host a virtual panel discussion focusing on research, practice, and advocacy six years after Ferguson. This virtual event, held on August 27, will feature some of our country's leading advocates and practitioners on law enforcement and racial justice issues, including: social justice activist, educator, and writer [Brittany Packnett Cunningham](#); New York Police Department First Deputy Commissioner and John Jay alumnus [Benjamin Tucker](#); John Jay Professor and civil rights attorney [Gloria Browne-Marshall](#); and Director of John Jay's National Network for Safe Communities [David Kennedy](#). I'm looking forward to this opportunity to reflect on the six years since Ferguson and the role of protesters, advocates, police leaders, researchers, and community members in creating a path forward to safer, fairer, and more racially just communities.

Please join us in this important conversation.

SAVE THE DATE
AUGUST 27, 2020 | 5-6:30 PM

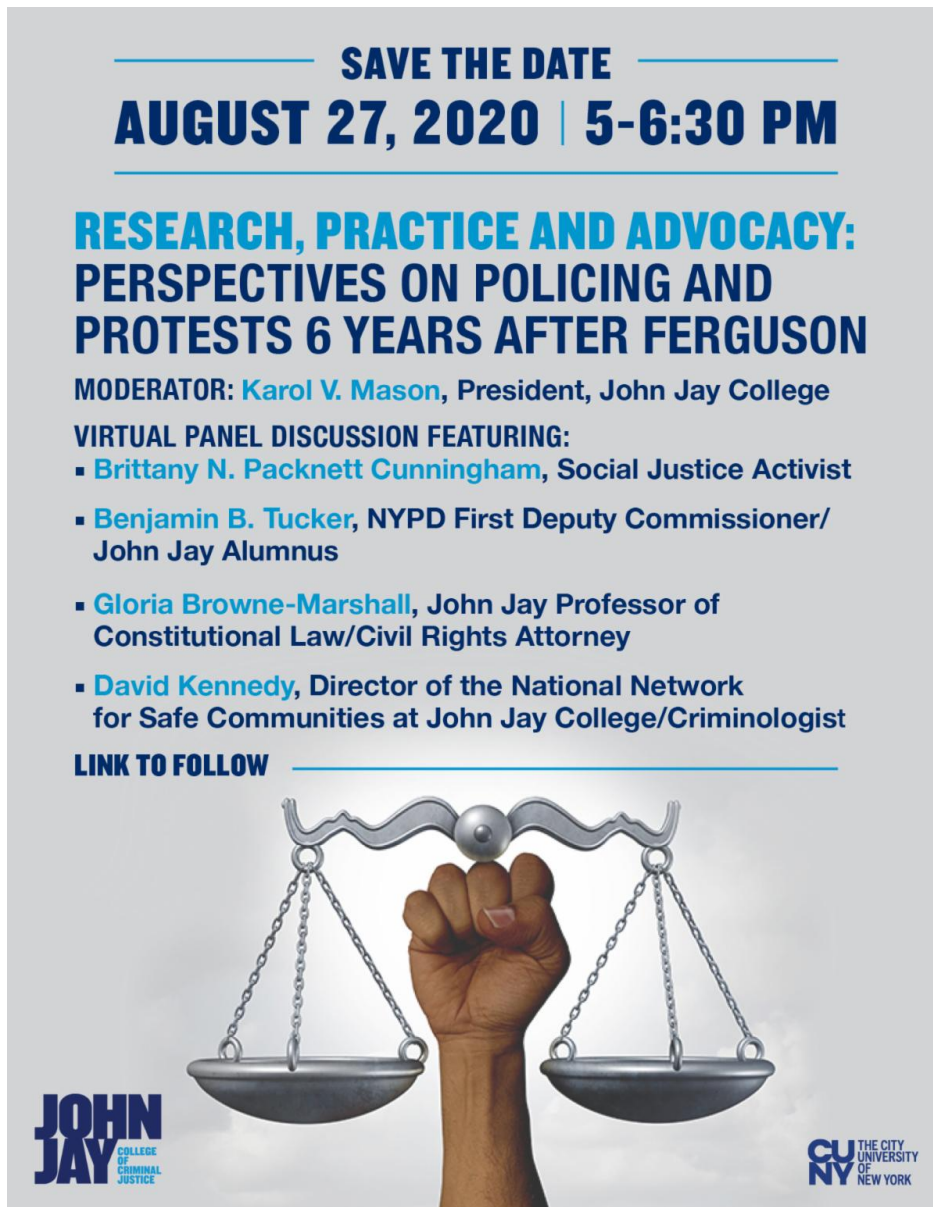
**RESEARCH, PRACTICE AND ADVOCACY:
PERSPECTIVES ON POLICING AND
PROTESTS 6 YEARS AFTER FERGUSON**

MODERATOR: **Karol V. Mason**, President, John Jay College


VIRTUAL PANEL DISCUSSION FEATURING:

- **Brittany N. Packnett Cunningham**, Social Justice Activist
- **Benjamin B. Tucker**, NYPD First Deputy Commissioner/
John Jay Alumnus
- **Gloria Browne-Marshall**, John Jay Professor of
Constitutional Law/Civil Rights Attorney
- **David Kennedy**, Director of the National Network
for Safe Communities at John Jay College/Criminologist

LINK TO FOLLOW



And, connect with me on LinkedIn to keep the conversation going.

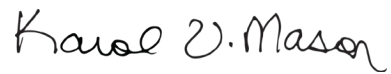
 **Karol Mason**
President of John Jay College of Criminal Justice
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As we reflect on the six-year anniversary of [#Ferguson](#) and the police killing of Michael Brown, and after witnessing the senseless killing of George Floyd, it's abundantly clear that more work needs to be done to address the historic racism and inequities plaguing many of our communities. The work ahead of us is hard, but at John Jay we are energized by our partnership with NOBLE, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the country's leading organization of Black law enforcement executives, and our plan to gather contributions from a wide array of perspectives and develop a report from what we heard. If we work together, listen to each other, and learn from our mistakes, we can rethink public safety and create stronger, safer, more just communities.

👍 20 • 2 Comments

I hope you'll join me. Let's work together to create a fairer, safer, more just world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karol V. Mason". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'K' and 'M'.

Karol V. Mason
President
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

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