



*Karol Mason
President*

*524 West 59th Street
New York City, NY 10019
T. 212.237.8600
F. 212.237.8607
kmason@jjay.cuny.edu*

September 15, 2017

Students, Faculty and Staff,

Many of you may be aware of recent statements made by a John Jay College adjunct on social media, television and in the press.

I want to state clearly that I was shocked by these statements. They are abhorrent. This adjunct expressed personal views that are not consistent with our college's well known and firm values and principles and my own personal standards and principles. I am appalled that anyone associated with John Jay, with our proud history of supporting law enforcement authorities, would suggest that violence against police is ever acceptable. I join with the many students, faculty, alumni and other members of our community in condemning these statements. The John Jay alumni who work in law enforcement, and the students who aspire to careers in law enforcement, represent our best. They secure the safety of our families and communities and deserve our respect.

John Jay College of Criminal Justice has a mission of educating fierce advocates for justice – including the next generation of police and law enforcement professionals. While John Jay strongly supports and affirms the right of free speech and independent views and expressions by our faculty, students and staff, the statements made by the adjunct are the antithesis of what John Jay College represents.

We recognize that the open exchange of diverse, even opposing ideas and perspectives gives strength to our institution and enriches the educational experience of our students. Indeed, to fulfill our mission, it is vital that we support our students, faculty and staff in engaging in robust, civil, and vigorous debate about the issues of the day. While respecting free speech and academic freedom are deeply held values, expressions of hate or intimidation are not welcome in that civil discourse, nor is anything that can be perceived as an incitement to violence.

The safety of our students, faculty and staff is our top priority. Today, members of the John Jay faculty received threats, and our students expressed concerns for their safety in the classroom. Out of concern for the safety of our students, faculty and staff, we are immediately placing the adjunct on administrative leave as we continue to review this matter.

Karol V. Mason
President

