



Karol V. Mason
President
212-237-8600 | president@jjay.cuny.edu

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To: The John Jay College Community
RE: How Do We Process January 6, 2021

Typically, I try to carve out space to process my thoughts and emotions before responding as the President of John Jay College of Criminal Justice to events that rock our foundation, events that challenge our faith in the very ideals that are core to the founding of this country.

I only learned what was happening when talking with a friend around 2:30 p.m. yesterday, when she asked, “do you know what’s happening?” Clearly, I didn’t. When I turned on the news and saw the images of people storming the Capitol, I was in shock. Then I called my “big brother,” who is a Congressman, to check on his safety. He was barricaded in his office for hours seeking safety. This should NOT happen in America, and certainly not at our U.S. Capitol.

Last night, I pulled out my own pocket version of the Constitution, to read it and remember who we are as a country. I read it to remember the oath I took twice at the U.S. Department of Justice. I read it to refresh my understanding of what this core document says. I read it to find some reassurance that we are strong enough as a country to come through the horrible images we were all forced to witness yesterday afternoon.

As we all try to wrap our minds around how did we get to this point, let’s remember that we are a community that respects the Constitution and seeks to have its principles of justice, equity, and fairness reflected in everything we do. The John Jay community is committed to creating a more just world. As we process how to move forward, let’s remember who we are, fierce advocates for justice. Let’s continue to work together to show the world how to move through difficult conversations, differences of opinion, in a way that is respectful and produces a stronger community. Hold tightly to this truth as you process the pain and fear we experienced yesterday.

Please remember that we have counseling resources available for all of our students, faculty, and staff.

Thank you for being part of this special John Jay community.

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

Karol V. Mason
President