



Karol V. Mason
President
212.237.8600
president@jjay.cuny.edu

June 17, 2020

To: The John Jay College Community
RE: Tomorrow's Open Community Forum & The Path Forward

We are living through a historic moment. Peaceful protesters continue to march through our streets and neighborhoods, and in response, policymakers and political leaders are enacting new changes to address longstanding issues around policing and community trust. We have also had the traumatic experience of once again witnessing by video more senseless losses of Black lives.

As I reflected in my [statement](#) last week, John Jay's history and mission places us right at the center of these significant movements. It's important that we come together as a college community to examine what this moment means for us at John Jay and how we can envision a path forward together. Tomorrow, we're holding a [Community Open Forum](#), **Thursday, June 18**, from **1:30-3:00 p.m.**, and I hope you'll join us.

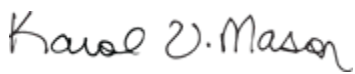
Thursday's forum is just one part of our continuing dialog surrounding racial justice issues at John Jay. In just one example, I joined the Black Student Union last week for a very frank, honest, and powerful [Town Hall](#) discussing racism, microaggressions, racial trauma, social justice, and the future of policing, that I recommend everyone in our community watch. This event delved into the racial tensions people of color routinely face, it elicited strong suggestions for change, and it provided a much-needed space for healing. We're committed to continuing this conversation, and we're ready to listen and take action.

In the coming months, we're planning a series of community conversations including alumni and key community partners, along with research panels featuring our own distinguished faculty and invited guests. These dialogues—many planned and led by students, faculty, and staff—will provide an opportunity for our community to explore data, research, scholarship, and policy solutions that support equity, public safety, and racial justice. We will also examine the implications for our curriculum and the ways we educate law enforcement leaders and advocates. On Friday, on the anniversary of Juneteenth, Associate Provosts Dara Byrne and Allison Pease are hosting one such conversation for faculty, "*The Curriculum Is the Institution: An Open Conversation with Faculty about What John Jay's Education Is and Might Be.*" I encourage all faculty to join that important discussion. Students are also invited to join another session on Friday where they can hear from John Jay alumni about their racial justice work and explore what that might look for themselves. Invitations were emailed to faculty and students for these events. As part of this work, we have an opportunity to reimagine and rethink policing in the 21st Century, and together we can envision John Jay's role in supporting this fundamental objective. I am committed to securing resources to support John Jay's continued leadership in reimagining policing and educating the next generation of police officers and leaders.

From these dialogues, will come action. To combat institutional racism and advance racial justice, we must keep the channels of communication open. We need to hear each other's experiences, share our ideas, and envision a future where equitable opportunities and outcomes are available for everyone. We must move beyond simply condemning acts of racism. We must deliberately institute actions and measures that support, achieve, and sustain racial equity. Building upon the work begun through our [Climate Review](#) process, we have an opportunity to take action at John Jay by ensuring that our faculty-led curriculum, our scholarship, and our advocacy are doing the most to help build and sustain a just society consistent with our mission, and fulfilling our ongoing commitment to creating a fair and supportive workplace for all.

I am committed to working with you to figure out the path forward together. I look forward to hearing from you at our Community Open Forum, Thursday, June 18, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

With gratitude,



Karol V. Mason
President

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
524 West 59th Street, New York, NY 10019 | www.jjay.cuny.edu

