

Updated information on response to racist graffiti
March 2, 2022


Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

We are writing to provide an update on actions taken in response to the two incidents of anti-Black and threatening graffiti that took place in Rockefeller dorm in late January and early February.

The College has engaged Maureen Holland, an attorney who is an experienced investigator at the Cozen O'Connor law firm to coordinate the investigation into these incidents. She is tasked with gathering facts and evaluating all available information to help the College identify, if possible, the person or persons who committed these acts. To date, the action steps Ms. Holland has completed include:

- Setting up a direct communication channel. We encourage those who have any information to email or call Ms. Holland directly. Her email address is mholland@cozen.com and her phone number is 215-665-5548;
- Meeting with the Rockefeller Dorm Leadership Team (DLT) to better understand students' perspectives and concerns, answer questions about the fact-gathering process, and provide a forum for the DLT to have input into the fact-finding process;
- Gathering and reviewing documents, including swipe card records, photos, emails, interview summaries, and timelines;
- Reviewing reports and photographs taken at the locations of the two incidents;
- Identifying an expert who has extensive training and decades of experience in handwriting analysis; and
- Interviewing College employees about immediate actions taken in response to the incidents.

Ms. Holland is continuing to conduct individual interviews and will follow the facts where they lead. We will continue to provide updates to the campus community about this process.

Immediately following the incidents, deans and other staff from the Pensby Center, Residential Life, the Counseling Center, and the Dean's Office, in coordination with staff and faculty members across departments, provided support to students impacted by these incidents. Supporting the Rockefeller community and its DLT was our chief concern immediately following the incidents, however, support for the broader community has also been provided through these offices. These supports will continue throughout the semester.  [Click here](#) for a list of resources.

In a message to come later this week, we will talk about some action steps we are planning to address community-wide impacts and concerns about the campus climate.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. Walters, Dean of the Undergraduate College
Ann-Therese Ortíz, Associate Dean for Equity, Inclusion and Community Life