Resolution on Crime Alerts and Race

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Resolution and Details

Timely Notification "Crime Alert" Email Resolution, 2/24/21

- The purpose of this resolution is to remove descriptions of race from the crime alert emails CUPD sends to the whole community.
- Crime Alert emails (also called "timely notification" emails) are mandated by federal law, but that law, the Clery Act, does not require racial descriptors.
- The consistent connection between race and crime drawn by Crime Alert emails is dangerous for people of color. The emails reinforce racist stereotypes.

Senate Co-sponsors

(members of the Public Safety Advisory Committee in italics)

Erik Born (German) Sahara Byrne (Com

Sahara Byrne (Communication)

Mark Lewis (Operations Research &

Information Engineering)

Risa Lieberwitz (ILR)

Joanie Mackowski (English)

Joe Margulies (Law)

Judith Peraino (Music)

Nancy Pollack (Comparative Literature)

Itziar Rodriguez de Rivera (Romance)

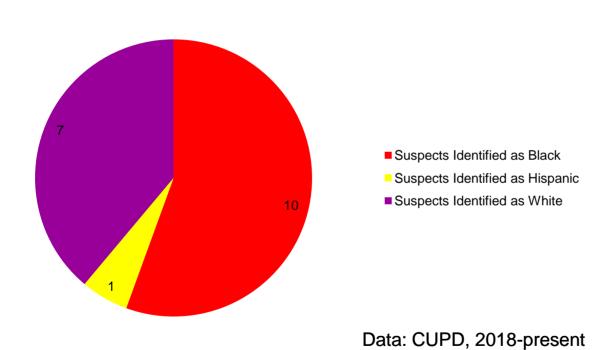
Neil Saccamano (English)

Suyoung Son (Asian Studies)

Meejeong Song (Asian Studies)

Robert Travis (History)

Timely Notifications and Race at Cornell



- Clery Act notifications are a subset of campus crime excluding, for example, most sexual assault
- Timely reporting requirements require immediate interviews of victims and rarely reflect police investigations
- The gold standards for CUPDcommunity communication are the CU Crime Log and media releases.

Why Make a Change?

- The association of Blackness and criminality, and the fear of Black men and women, is a key feature of what Michelle Alexander calls "the new Jim Crow" a complex of policies around crime and incarceration that suppresses communities of color. Timely reporting emails contribute to that fear.
- The unequal treatment of people of color is happening on campus right now. We have a responsibility to address it in multiple and interlocking ways, including through proposals by Do Better Cornell, the Cornell Faculty Coalition, and AbLA+, abolitionist librarians from across lvy schools.
- Peer institutions including Brown, University of Minnesota, and Vanderbilt have already made this change without negative repercussions. Chief Honan has signaled a willingness to make changes.