

# 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)*

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# Timely Notifications and Race at Cornell



Data: CUPD, 2018-present

- 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 CUPD-community 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 Ivy 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.