

A Resolution of Support

Preamble

The current social protest in American cities and in cities around the world, calls for fundamental reform of a criminal justice system that has institutionalized racism, and more broadly, for an end to four hundred years of cruel and inhumane treatment of people of color. Our College has sadly been a part of this history of racism. Many of our North Country friends and neighbors are part of the criminal justice institutions that are the subject of current protests and social unrest. It is important that our North Country neighbors understand that the criticisms contained in this resolution are not aimed at them personally, but at an institutional framework that we believe is often cruel and unjust. While the missions of the criminal justice system and the College are distinct, we are all public servants dedicated to making the North Country and New York State a better, a more just society.

WHEREAS SUNY Plattsburgh is dedicated to providing a curriculum and college experience that values diversity, equity and inclusion in public life; and

WHEREAS SUNY Plattsburgh dedicates itself to being a college where students, faculty, and staff from a wide range of historical identities, especially underrepresented minorities, can feel safe to live, learn, and speak their minds; and

WHEREAS many of our students, faculty, and staff are currently engaged in a social protest movement ignited by the deaths of George Floyd, Breona Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery; and

WHEREAS many criminal justice professionals in the North Country are working in their own ways to eliminate racial injustices that have been historically part of criminal justice institutions,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committees of the Plattsburgh United University Professions, the Plattsburgh Faculty Senate and the Civil Service Employees Association:

enthusiastically endorse Chief of SUNY Plattsburgh Police, Patrick Rascoe's, June 1 email to the college community. Chief Rascoe noted that "Good officers need to stand up for our communities to the few officers who are not." Rascoe should know that we will stand up for those good officers (see below);

enthusiastically endorse President Enyedi's May 29th message to the college community, as well as his public statement published by SUNY Plattsburgh on May 31 (see below);

and also commend Dr. Michelle Cromwell, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and their staff, for putting together the Racial Violence Solidarity Night on May 29th for the Plattsburgh community.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Committees of the Plattsburgh United University Professionals, the Plattsburgh Faculty Senate and the Civil Service Employees Association:

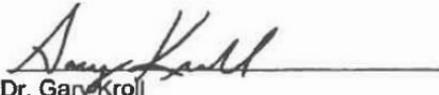
call on senior administrators to redouble their efforts to promote the values of diversity, equity and inclusion at the College, especially in regards to: continuing to support meaningful curricular reform; providing meaningful professional development for faculty and staff; and intensifying their efforts to diversify our faculty and staff; and

call on College leadership to engage local civic leaders and North Country neighbors in the uncomfortable discussions about racism and social injustice in the College community, criminal justice institutions, and the North Country community; and

that we all work together as a community to eradicate racism and promote social justice.



Kim Harshorn
Plattsburgh Chapter President, UUP



Dr. Gary Kroll
Chair, Plattsburgh Faculty Senate



Ethel Fecteau
Plattsburgh Chapter President, CSEA

Text copied from Patrick Rascoe June 1, 2020 email to critical lists:

Students and Campus Community,

I am writing to both offer my condolences to the family of George Floyd and to personally apologize for the biased, racist, and unlawful treatment of communities of color and others by some cultures of police officers across this nation.

Understandably, protests and demonstrations have taken place across the country by protesters who rightly are standing up and demanding change. I urge peaceful protests and I agree with them. Change needs to happen and it needs to come from within my profession.

Good officers need to stand up for our communities to the few officers who are not. Police departments need to cultivate cultures of officers who value service to the people over relationships with their peers and promote those who do. Supervisors need to set the tone and expectations for their officers. and swiftly address the smallest of infractions before they become large ones.

We are committed to ensuring that every one of our officers receives annual training to address bias and oppressive behaviors. We value connections with and demonstrated service to our community. This should be done across the country. Your trust in my profession depends on it.

None of this will undo the injustices of past or the constant reminders for many of our community members that racial bias is ingrained and prevalent in our society. I can promise you that I will do my best to lead SUNY Plattsburgh University Police to promote justice, legitimacy, and trust of the public we took an oath to protect.

Also, please seek medical and mental health care as needed. If you are a student, you can contact the Student Health and Counseling Center at (518) 564-3086 or healthcenter@plattsburgh.edu. Employees can contact our Employee Assistance Program at (518) 564-3277 or (518) 564-5187 or oharaea@plattsburgh.edu.

Text copied from President Alexander Enyedi's May 29 email to critical lists:

Dear Campus Community,

Today, as we pray for peace in Minneapolis, we at SUNY Plattsburgh stand in solidarity with the communities impacted, every day, by racism, discrimination, and prejudice.

We stand with those who grieve the untimely and unjust loss of George Floyd, one among countless black bodies senselessly killed by authorities and others in recent times. And we stand with our students and their families, who are frightened and angered and in need of change and of healing.

Racism and structural inequalities have affected our communities of color on so many levels — economically, socially, physically and psychologically — and when they are affected, so is our campus community.

We invite all who wish to stand as one to join together tonight, Friday, May 29, from 6 to 7 p.m., as we hold space to honor George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and all those who have gone before them to honor and give voice to the difficulties faced by so many in our communities.

A link to join is here: <https://plattsburgh.zoom.us/j/91883049838>. Details are also attached to this email.

Our black and brown students, faculty and staff are valued members of the SUNY Plattsburgh community. We are here to provide support to you during these difficult times.

Please seek medical and mental health care as needed. If you are a student, you can contact the Student Health and Counseling Center at (518) 564-3086 or healthcenter@plattsburgh.edu. Employees can contact our Employee Assistance Program at call (518) 564-3277 or (518) 564-5187 or oharaea@plattsburgh.edu.

Please build and reach out to your support networks on and off campus. For those in crisis, the local crisis hotline is (866) 577-3836. For the national crisis textline, text HELLO to 741-741.

There can be no progress without collective work — and we are committed to supporting our students, faculty and staff as we continue to resist oppressive systems and fight for justice.

Dr. Alexander Enyedi
President

Text copied from May 31 Social Media Post published by SUNY Plattsburgh

SUNY Plattsburgh stands without equivocation with our black and brown students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members.

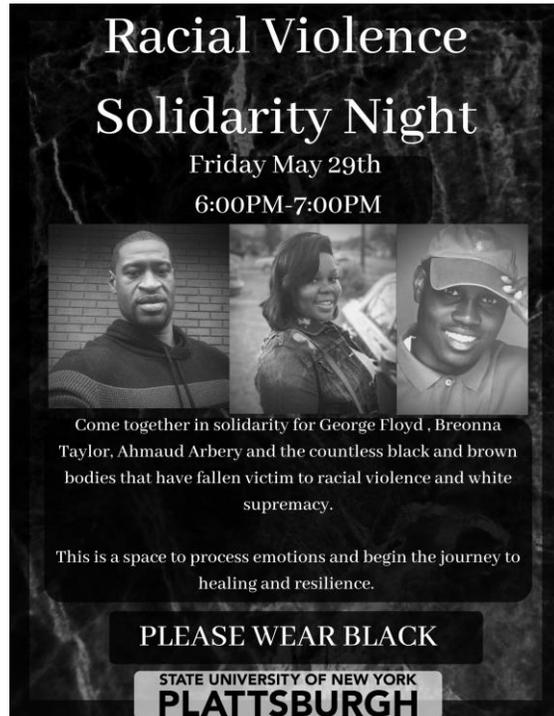
As protests continue around the country and our home communities, the unjust, hateful and inhumane treatment of black and brown bodies and allies continues to rise and escalate. These members of our community, state, and nation are deeply wounded mentally, emotionally, and physically by racialized violence that must end.

We stand in solidarity in the fight for justice for George Floyd and in the fight for the eradication of racial violence all over this country.

We also denounce any racist, hateful and horrific comments made by community members related to the deaths of George Floyd and any other people of color. We will hold our community members accountable, engage them in conversations, and respond to acts of bias that harm and hurt members of our community.

And we stand today and every day with the courageous individuals in our communities and around the nation taking a stand through direct nonviolent action.

A #CardinalStrong attitude does not simply apply to pandemics of viruses. It also applies to pandemics of hate, a different virus that continues to infect our culture. We must rise up in this case just as strong.



Poster for Tele-Town Hall sponsored by the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: