Resolution on Crime Alerts and Race

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Resolution and Details
• 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.

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(members of the Public Safety Advisory Committee in italics)

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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 CUPD-community communication are the CU Crime Log and media releases.

**Data:** CUPD, 2018-present

- Suspects Identified as Black: 10
- Suspects Identified as Hispanic: 7
- Suspects Identified as White: 1

**Pie Chart:**
- Red: Suspects Identified as Black
- Orange: Suspects Identified as Hispanic
- Purple: Suspects Identified as White
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.