

Resolution Condemning NYPD Undercover Intelligence Gathering Activities on CUNY Campuses

Passed on October 28, 2011

WHEREAS, it was recently revealed in multiple press reports that the New York Police Department (NYPD) has been involved in undercover intelligence gathering targeting Muslim student organizations and at least one member of the faculty on multiple campuses of the City University of New York (CUNY), including Queens College, Baruch, Hunter College, City College, and LaGuardia; and

WHEREAS, it appears that these investigations are not based on specific allegations of criminal wrongdoing, or threats to public safety, but instead take the form of general background intelligence gathering; and

WHEREAS, the press reports indicate that these investigations may have been in collaboration with campus security officers without the knowledge of the targets of these investigations; and

WHEREAS, such collaboration between campus security officers and the NYPD may place CUNY in violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which would make CUNY vulnerable to losing all federal funding; and

WHEREAS, the presence of the NYPD appears to violate the NYPD-CUNY Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Police Response to Incidents and Events Occurring at the City University of New York; and

WHEREAS, if the NYPD-CUNY Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Police Response to Incidents and Events Occurring at the City University of New York was not violated, then the presence of the NYPD appears to indicate that members of CUNY administration sanctioned undercover intelligence gathering targeting the university's students and faculty; and

WHEREAS, the use of undercover police agents in the reported circumstances has a chilling effect on academic freedom, academic integrity, freedom of expression, and the free exchange of ideas, which are necessary to higher learning and the academy for both students and faculty; and

WHEREAS, the Doctoral Students' Council represents over 4,700 members of the Graduate School many of whom are simultaneously students and faculty across the many CUNY campuses; therefore, now, be it

RESOLVED, that the Doctoral Students' Council joins Brooklyn College Faculty and CUNY School of Law Faculty in opposing the surveillance activities by the NYPD and affiliated agencies on CUNY campuses, either directly or through the use of informants, for the purposes of collecting information independent of a valid and specific criminal investigation; and

Further RESOLVED, that we call upon CUNY's central administration to condemn the violation of the NYPD-CUNY Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Police Response to Incidents and Events Occurring at the City University of New York ; and

Further RESOLVED, that if the NYPD-CUNY Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Police Response to Incidents and Events Occurring at the City University of New York was not violated, we call upon CUNY's administration to account publicly for its role in this surveillance; and

Further RESOLVED, that we call upon CUNY's central administration to demand publicly that the NYPD inform those groups and individuals that they have been the subject of this surveillance and the nature of the information gathered; and

Further RESOLVED, that we call on Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly to account publicly for the extent of NYPD surveillance of CUNY students and faculty; and

Finally RESOLVED, that we call on Mayor Michael Bloomberg and the New York City Council to end the NYPD's surveillance activities targeting members of the CUNY community in our public university system and to conduct independent investigations.