

A Resolution in Solidarity with the Demands of Black Student Activists at San Jose State University

WHEREAS, “During the 2013 SJSU Fall semester, residents of Campus Village building C dormitory #704 antagonized their roommate, Victim [name blocked for privacy]. The antagonizing directed at [name blocked for privacy] included racial name calling, attempting to lock a bicycle lock around [name blocked for privacy]’s neck, forcibly holding him down while trying to place the lock around his neck a second time, the posting of a Confederate flag, and the writing of racial slurs in the common area of their apartment”, and

WHEREAS, Officer _____ “was dispatched to meet Reporting Party Residential Life Coordinator (RLC) Weideman in the Campus Village C (CVC) RLC office. Weideman wanted to report a possible hate crime with the victim wishing to remain anonymous”, and

WHEREAS, Residential Life Coordinator (RLC) Weideman “explained that she became aware of an incident that occurred in one of the CVC dormitory apartments on 10/13/2013 [16 days before the California State University Police got involved]. An African American resident, returning to his dorm room with his parents, encountered a racial slur written on a dry erase board and a confederate flag displayed in the common area of the apartment. The parents reported it to housing [see attached report]. Weideman met with the African American resident and determined that there had been other racial insults directed at the resident, by his white suitemates, along with an incident involving his suitemates forcing him to the floor; while trying to lock a bicycle “U” lock around his neck, Weideman stated, while housing was following up through their judicial process and Student Affairs, the victim did not want to involve the police department” ---> from Weideman Reports, and

WHEREAS, Officer _____ includes in the police report that he: “outlined the situation and explained that [he was] there to seek statements from other involved parties, [He] also explained that discriminatory or hostile acts against [victim] needed to cease and that active or passive participation in such acts were unacceptable”, and

WHEREAS, “At the beginning of the semester, the residents of 704 got together in the living room and talked about giving each other nicknames. The residents chose to nickname [the victim],”3/5ths” in reference to the 3/5 compromise at the 1787 Constitutional Convention deeming a black slave to count as 3/5 of a person toward representation and taxation”, and

WHEREAS, “[the victim’s] suitemates surprised him and locked a bicycle “U” lock around his neck and hid the key before [the victim] found it and was able to unlock and remove the device”, and

WHEREAS, “[the victim’s] suitemates tried, unsuccessfully, to lock the ”U” lock around his neck again, [the victim] saw them coming and resisted by trying to push them away. The suitemates forced him to the floor and held him down while they struggled with him trying to place the lock around his neck again”, leaving the victim with a bruised lip, and

WHEREAS. “[The suitemates proceeded with] a ploy to lure [the victim] into a closet and lock him inside of it with the suitemates going as far as to remove a closet door knob in the process”, and;

WHEREAS, “A sarcastic apology note written to [the victim] in which ‘the Beloved Reverend Doctor Martin

Luther King, Jr.” was referenced along with a post script that stated something to the effect of, ‘We do not advise you to ignore us’ and signed, ‘The Residents’”, and

WHEREAS, “[the victim] told [the resident assistant] that he was the only resident of the room being targeted in such incidents and that it was because he was black. [The resident assistant] said it was [the victim’s] perspective that the lock was placed around his neck to symbolize, “Putting chains and locks on the black kid” [the victim] added that he did not think the suitemates were racist, but that these events were part of, “A prank war gone extreme” , and

WHEREAS, “While speaking with the residents, Weideman called [Officer _____’s] attention to #704C, Warren and Beaschler’s shared bedroom. [Officer _____] sepped into the room and saw a printed paper posted on the left wall of the room above Beaschler’s (one of the suspects and victim’s roommate’s) bed. The paper read “Das Booten Fisch,” and had the “SS” lightning bolt symbols in the center, commonly associated with Nazi Germany. Also above Beaschler’s bed was a poster from Eastern University, and Palmer Seminary. the poster had the phrase, “Serious Social Jusice” printed on it. the “S’s” had been written over in black in with the same “SS” lightning bolt symbols. A male, Shane Claiborne, pictured on the poster also had a Swastika drawn on his forehead in black ink, Claiborne was listed as the author of, “Irresistible Revolution.” While standing in front of the posters, I could see a white piece of paper posted on the end of the bed that would not be visible from the hallway. The paper read, “Solange for VP” but had a picture of Adolf Hitler standing in the background. I saw a flag that had a confederate pattern on it on Beaschler’s desk. Besides the confederate pattern, there was a picture of a skeleton soldier walking forward carrying the confederate flag and the words, “The South Will Rise Again,” printed on it”, and

WHEREAS, “I noticed a piece of paper hung over the head of Warren’s bed. The paper had a large hand drawn symbol that appeared to be an inverted pentagram in a circle on the center of the paper. There were smaller versions of the same pentagram circle on the four corners of the paper. Each of the pentagrams had an image of a demonic face or goat om ot and the the circle around the pentagram had shapes drawn along it. The smaller images in the corner had the same details. An internet search of the word, “pentagram”, later revealed a matching image that indicated the one depicted in Warren’s room was a, “Baphomet Pentagram.” According [to] the webpage associated with the image, the Baphomet Pentagram has been adopted as the official copyrighted symbol for the Church of Satan. The face in the center of the pentagram is supposed to be that of a goat face and the symbols in the circle around the pentagram were supposed to be Hebrew lettes for the name, “Leviathan.” I noticed another piece of paper with the same images arranged in the same pattern posted on the side of the uneven ceiling dividing the living room and the kitchenette area”, and

WHEREAS, the racist criminal conduct committed by the victim’s suitemates are representative of white supremacy which still permeates our society, country, state, city, and higher education institutions, even in the age of Obama, and (even in a moment where an African American President sits in office)

WHEREAS, the suspects of the racist criminal activity should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law, and

WHEREAS, “The Black Bruins” viral video exposes the concerning reality of black students at UCLA because the campus has admitted less than 50 black men into the University in 2013¹ and has a shockingly low graduation rate of 74% amongst black men which represents the overall lack of support for black students in higher education institutions, and

¹ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEO3H5BOIFk>

WHEREAS, the recent hate crimes at San Jose State University is not an isolated incident, in fact the UC System has seen overt anti-black racism from students within the UC System as represented in the Compton Cookout² in 2010 at UCSD and the blackface video from a fraternity at UCI during the Spring of 2013³, and

WHEREAS, UC Students should feel responsible and connected to this issue because racism is still experienced within the UC System within an interpersonal, institutionalized, and internalized context, and

WHEREAS, the black community at San Jose State University has developed a comprehensive list of demands that are broken down into the following categories;

1. Zero Tolerance Policy For Racial Harassment and Discrimination,
2. Creating a Black Culture and Community Resource Center,
3. Establishing an Ethnic Studies GE class equivalency, and
4. Establishing Community Enhancement Floors⁴, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council officially endorse all of the demands of the black student activists at San Jose State University;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the USAC Academic Affairs Commissioner present a similar resolution in support of black activists' demands at San Jose State in regards to integrating a critical race studies component into General Education Requirements, at the UCLA Academic Senate; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the USAC President and External Vice President write a joint open letter to Governor Jerry Brown endorsing the CA black congressional caucuses' request for a statewide review of the condition of black students within higher education in California.

² http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/27/education/27sandiego.html?_r=0

³ <http://articles.latimes.com/2013/may/02/local/la-me-ln-irvine-fraternity-suspends-20130502>

⁴ <https://docs.google.com/document/d/10hsMqBm8lwHh1hOHR2fXMUnqfHCXHiPhTfW84GQFvk/edit>