

**A Message to Boston's College and University Students from Boston Police
Commissioner William G. Gross**

On behalf of the entire Boston Police Department, I want to welcome new and returning students to the City of Boston. Although the times and circumstances with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic has changed so much for us all, our commitment to serving and protecting you and your college community remains unwavering.

In the last several months, the City of Boston, along with other major cities and towns across America, has been the host of demonstrations, protests, marches, and rallies, the majority of which have remained peaceful. Our focus in attending each of these events is always on keeping all residents safe, and protecting every person's right to the First Amendment, and free speech.

Today, I am writing to ask for your help as we prepare for events moving forward so that we can ensure the safety of all.

As I have stated in the past, we are asking all participants of demonstrations to act in a way that would make your school, your family, and your city proud, and is respectful of our neighborhoods. Student behavior off campus will be regarded the same as if it were on campus. Any student behaving in a way that warrants the intervention of police will also be referred to their respective Dean of Students for appropriate discipline.

For your own safety, if you plan to partake in peaceful demonstrations in the City of Boston, prepare an exit strategy for when the demonstration ends. As we have seen nationally, peaceful demonstrations can quickly turn violent. We ask that you remain aware of your surroundings at all times, not only in your close vicinity, but in the general area as well.

For any instance where there is a planned demonstration, Boston will have extra patrols available, and will maintain a presence in all of our neighborhoods. As always, the Boston Police Department maintains open lines of communication with all local colleges and universities.

Thank you very much for your attention to this important safety matter. Best of luck as you continue this school year.

Sincerely,
William G. Gross
Police Commissioner

