



BROWN

KOREN BAKKEGARD
Associate Vice President for Campus Life and
Dean of Students
Office of the VP for Campus Life

October 24, 2024

Dear Kenan and Felora,

On Friday, October 18, 2024 Students for Justice in Palestine, Brown (BSJP) registered an event described as “SJP Demonstration,” with a confirmed space reservation for the Faunce Steps and Flagpole end of the College Green. Reiterating what Executive Vice President Russell Carey stated in his campus communication on October 20, much of what took place as part of the event was consistent with submitted event plans and with policy and community expectations regarding protest and demonstration. However, the event ultimately included a march to 222 Richmond Street where members of the Brown community reported behaviors that included event participants banging on a vehicle carrying members of the community, physically blocking passage of a vehicle, screaming profanity at individuals at close and personal range, directing a racial epithet toward a person of color, and following and screaming at individuals while filming them.

The University received deeply concerning reports characterizing behaviors as threatening, intimidating, harassing and racially charged. Any behavior that is determined to violate the University Code of Conduct, Code of Student Conduct, Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy, Protest and Demonstration Policy, or any other University policy would be subject to disciplinary action.

The Student Activities Office Handbook specifies that Event Managers are responsible for proper conduct at events, for cooperation with University staff and Providence officials, for observing the rules of the University, and for continuously supervising the event and enforcing all policies and regulations.

Following the reports of concerning behaviors, I am initiating a preliminary review into this event, to be conducted by an external investigator, to determine the scope of behavior that may have violated University policies and conduct standards and the individuals and organizations involved. If the preliminary review by the external investigator indicates possible violations of University policy, those will be addressed by established procedures.

Brown’s Student Conduct Procedures for Student Groups include provisions for authorizing interim measures “prior to and following the resolution of a matter” under its procedures. Given the severity of the alleged behaviors, pending the review of this matter and effective immediately and until further written notice, Students for Justice in Palestine, Brown (BSJP) must cease all

organization activities per the Interim Measures provision in the Student Conduct Procedures for Student Groups, 2024– 2025 Academic Year (section 5.21). This includes, and is not limited to, cessation of all meetings, social events, educational events, and physical and social media postings. BSJP is not permitted at this time to reserve spaces, spend funds, or use the BSJP name. Whether formal or informal, the group is not permitted or sanctioned to organize, host, or attend events or activities as an organization. Failure to comply with the terms of these interim measures will result in a referral to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

The implementation of this interim measure is based on the severity of the alleged behavior and does not prejudice the merits of any future proceeding that might occur to determine whether BSJP violated University policy. As a student group, BSJP is presumed not responsible for any alleged violation of University policy unless so found through the appropriate disciplinary process.

As the leadership for the organization, it is your responsibility, and my expectation, that you notify members via email that the group is unable to engage in activities as an organization at this time. Leadership and members must comply with all requests from the external investigator and Brown administrators to meet and share information.

You can contact me with any questions about these interim restrictions. I appreciate, in advance, your compliance with these terms and cooperation with the preliminary review.

Sincerely,

Koren Bakkegard

Associate Vice President for Campus Life and Dean of Students