

Subject: Bias-Related Incident – Thursday, November 30th

Dear Residents of Trumbull & Sousa 4<sup>th</sup> Floor,

On the night of Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, there was an incident that occurred which is considered to be bias-related in nature. Specifically, racial slurs were found written on a whiteboard in the hallway. This type of behavior is directly against the University of Connecticut's values of striving to create a safe and inclusive community for all students. Furthermore, a separate vandalism incident occurred the same night. In this instance, offensive writing in marker was found on the hallway wall.

A bias-related incident is an incident that negatively targets, intimidates, or threatens an individual or group due to race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, physical, mental, and intellectual disabilities, as well as past/present history of mental disorders. This includes but is not limited to graffiti, language, or images that harass or intimidate individuals or groups due to the above characteristics.

We expect that you will all have an active part in building an inclusive community by helping us disrupt the narrative that events such as these create in our community. We can disprove these notions of intolerance by showing up in allyship to events that uplift and support each other. Although this incident has occurred in our area, I know they do not represent who we are as a community.

As you move forward in immersing yourself in the community, please keep in mind that certain words, whether spoken out loud or written, are deeply offensive and can have a major impact on others. We can be proactive and not reactive to situations like this by making the following changes in our daily behaviors:

Hold your peers accountable for their decisions. If you see or hear something, whether it is bias or vandalism, say something to your RA or your Hall Director. Remind your guests that you are responsible for their behavior and that you will not tolerate offensive & disruptive actions within your community.

If you encounter any other bias-related incidents within the community, please do not hesitate to report it through the bias reporting form. <https://dos.uconn.edu/bias-reporting-2/>

Best,

HD Steve Taylor

HD Daryl Yingling

Residence Hall Directors, Towers Quadrangle

Department of Residential Life

University of Connecticut

1346 Storrs Road Unit 4238

Storrs, CT 06269-4238