

**To:** Montgomery College Community

**From:** Dr. Jermaine F. Williams, President

**Subject:** Response to Virtual Panel Discussion

**Date:** March 7, 2024

Montgomery College is aware of a virtual panel discussion held today, which was organized by a faculty member and included guest speakers external to the College. The inflammatory language used in the discussion is in direct conflict with our mission and values. I am writing to issue a direct and unequivocal condemnation and rejection of hateful sentiments expressed by panelists who advocated for violence against Israel. We are committed to creating safe spaces for civil dialogue and will not tolerate threatening speech.

In collaboration with law enforcement agencies, our public safety team will continue its attention and response to any suspicious or concerning activity on our campuses and College locations. We encourage members of our community to report any incident of intimidation, harassment, or threatening behavior by calling 240-567-3333. Further information can be found at the [Office of Public Safety](#).

The College is committed to the right of faculty members to engage in free academic discourse and defends freedom of speech. Events or communications that threaten the safety of any of our community members are unacceptable. We are at our best when students, faculty, and staff are mindful of the ways in which their language might impact others. Our community has committed to welcoming all students and all employees into a community that emphasizes belonging and conducting ourselves with civility, courtesy, and professionalism in all our interactions.