



OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

May 29, 2020

Dear LACCD Colleagues,

The horrific, inexcusable death of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers is the latest tragedy in a long epidemic of unwarranted beatings and killings of unarmed African American men and women, and other minoritized communities, during encounters with law enforcement personnel throughout this country. The desensitization and normalization of such deaths is simply alarming and, indeed, a disheartening commentary of our current society. Our deepest sympathies go out to his family, and to all those who have suffered similar traumatic and unjust losses.

The death of Mr. Floyd, recorded on video and broadcast to millions around the world, is reminiscent of the senseless beating of Rodney King in 1992. It is also a visceral reminder that we have much more and significant work ahead to heal and redress this country's long-standing and unresolved issues with race relations. Mr. Floyd's death has sparked social and criminal justice rallies and forums to increase awareness, to engage in lawful civil disobedience and to demand justice. This action is warranted; the pain and frustration are understandable. The Freedom of Speech and the Right to Assemble are cherished constitutional rights and cornerstones of our American democracy.

In sharp contrast, misguided individuals have redirected important and necessary attention, and have manipulated this opportunity to loot and cause mayhem across U.S. cities, including Los Angeles. Early this morning, the District's Educational Services Center (ESC) in downtown Los Angeles fell victim to criminal vandalism that included loss of property, graffiti and broken windows to the Administrative Hearing Room on the first floor. No other damage or operational incapability to the facility or the District is known at this time. Thus, as a safety precaution, all first-floor exterior areas of the ESC are being secured with a wooden barrier perimeter.

Furthermore, I have directed that the building be closed to all personnel until further notice, including for any essential services personnel. We are working closely with our law enforcement partners at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Community College Bureau to make sure the ESC, the colleges and all district facilities are secure and safe.

The District's priority is your health and safety. Additional rallies, lawful assemblies and protests are planned in greater Los Angeles throughout the weekend, and I urge you all to be cautious and intentionally alert if traveling outside your home.

We will continue to closely monitor the situation and to provide you with updates as appropriate

Please be safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francisco C. Rodriguez'.

Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.
Chancellor
Los Angeles Community College District