



Rachel Cohen <rsc473@nyu.edu>

Update on Incidents East of Washington Square

1 message

Fountain Walker, Vice President for Global Campus Safety <campus.safety@nyu.edu>

Wed, Mar 2, 2022 at 5:23 PM

Reply-To: campus.safety@nyu.edu

To: rsc473@nyu.edu



Date: 3/2/2022

To: The NYU Community

From: Fountain Walker, Vice President for Global Campus Safety

Re: Update on Incidents East of Washington Square

The week before last, I wrote to make the community aware of three disturbing incidents involving students struck without warning in the area east of Washington Square Park.

This past Friday, there was another incident that bears hallmarks of the prior incidents: an Asian NYU student was struck without warning or provocation while walking west on W. 4th Street between Mercer and Greene Streets by a male-presenting individual with blonde hair. In this case, the description differs in certain respects: the assailant was also described as having a beard and as being 5'6" or 5'7" in height.

We are, of course, deeply concerned about these incidents. There is no videotape of the incidents that would give us additional information or investigative material that would allow us to determine more definitively how these incidents might be related; nevertheless, it seems likely that at least some, if not all, of the incidents are connected. And given the fact that three of the four incidents involved Asian students, we are proceeding on the assumption that anti-Asian bigotry must be playing a role.

With regard to that assumption: the City's Asian Hate Crimes Task Force has [recently posted a video on social media](#) of a man with blonde hair being sought

in connection with incidents of punching Asian women in southern Manhattan.

Campus Safety is taking a number of steps:

1. In addition to our prior outreach to the NYPD to make them aware of the attacks, we have also reached out to the Asian Hate Crimes Task Force to share the information we have, as well as to learn more of what the individual they are seeking is suspected of having done.
2. We will be adding more video cameras east of Washington Square Park and we are working with the Facilities and Construction Management unit to enhance lighting where we have scaffolding.
3. We are increasing Campus Safety foot patrols in the areas east of Washington Square Park where the incident occurred, with a focus on the evening period.
4. We have put Campus Safety officers on heightened alert 1) so that any possibly related additional incidents are quickly flagged for higher level attention, and 2) so that CSOs are vigilant about individuals who might fit the description.
5. We have begun reviewing our policies about campus notification to make sure we are getting timely information out.
6. We have reinforced with Campus Safety Officers the importance of treating reports of students being struck — or any other matter — with the utmost seriousness, promptness, respect, and concern.

We urge anyone who saw any of these incidents or who may have any information that may bear on these incidents to come forward to [Campus Safety](#) (212.998.2222), and we urge anyone who may recognize or have information about the individual in the [video posted on social media](#) to promptly [contact Crimestoppers](#). Crimes and emergencies should be reported to 911.

We view these occurrences with the utmost seriousness and will continue and heighten our vigilance. We want these incidents to end immediately. We are conscious of the unease that Asian members of the NYU community may be feeling right now; we stand united in full support of them, and want them to know they have our support and that we are determined to make them feel secure on our campus.

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