Establish Reward Offer in the Bomb Threats at Charles Drew University

On Tuesday, January 11, 2022, administrators at Charles R. Drew University (CDU), located in the unincorporated community of Willowbrook, discovered a bomb threat that had been emailed to a generic university email address on Sunday, January 9, 2022. CDU immediately closed the entire campus and notified authorities. After a thorough safety assessment from the Los Angeles County (County) Sheriff's Department (LASD), the campus reopened, but not without causing fear in the campus community and the community at large, and not without lingering questions as to whether this type of threats would become more prevalent.

On Monday, January 31, 2022, at approximately 11:45 p.m., CDU <u>received</u> a second bomb threat which was made via a phone call to a campus-related number stating that a bomb would be detonated on the campus. LASD completed a thorough check of the entire campus and it was determined that the campus was safe and that the bomb threat was not valid.

These threats coincide with a wave of bomb threats that have been made against Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) across the country, which federal, state, and local authorities are investigating. As the only HBCU in California, CDU is a beacon of excellence in South Los Angeles and, sadly, a target for ignorant, racist attacks. Prior to the threat at CDU, over a dozen HBCUs, including Howard University in Washington, D.C.; Morgan State University and Coppin State University in Baltimore, Maryland; Fort Valley State University in Fort Valley, Georgia; Kentucky State University in Frankfort, Kentucky; Xavier

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University in New Orleans, Louisiana; Edward Waters University in Jacksonville, Florida; Alcorn State University in Lorman, Mississippi; Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, Mississippi; Rust College in Holly Springs, Mississippi; Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia; Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi; and Tougaloo College in Tougaloo,

Mississippi were also terrorized with similar bomb threats.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is <u>investigating</u> the threats as <u>racially or ethnically motivated</u> violent extremism and hate crimes, according to Axios News. The FBI is reporting that hate crime reports in the U.S. have surged to the <u>highest level</u> in 12 years. Attacks targeting Black people <u>rose</u> to 2,871 from 1,972, and the number targeting Asians <u>iumped</u> to 279 from 161.

Tragically, many other examples exist in the County and beyond. It is believed that the threats at HBCUs were planned to coincide with the recognition of Black History Month. A reward is needed for each incident to encourage members of the public to come forward with information that they may have regarding this threat.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

- Establish the offer of a reward in the amount of \$20,000 in exchange for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the heinous bomb threat(s) directed towards Charles R. Drew University, located at 1731 East 120th Street in the unincorporated area of Willowbrook, on January 11, 2022.
- 2. Establish the offer of a reward in the amount of \$20,000 in exchange for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the heinous bomb threat(s) directed towards Charles R. Drew University, located at 1731 East 120th Street in the unincorporated area of Willowbrook, on January 31, 2022 at approximately 11:45 p.m.

Contact: Detective Rich Brown

- or -

Anonymous Tip Line

(888) 412-7463

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Century Station

(323) 568-4800

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