CUNY Law School Students' Condemnation of Violence against Peaceful Protesters

We, the Student Government and members of the student body at the City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law express our outrage at the violence committed against peaceful student and faculty demonstrators at Baruch College as well as at the University of California – Berkeley and the University of California – Davis.

We support opening spaces for protest, political dissent and acts of civil disobedience on our campuses. We support the CUNY student movement in solidarity with Occupy Wall Street, including the student strike organized by our fellow CUNY students on November 17 and the protests on November 21 in reaction to the tuition increases created by the Board of Trustees.

We call upon the CUNY administration to view these protests as an opportunity to discuss CUNY's future as a public institution meant to serve the people of this city, and not as a threat that requires violence and intimidation as a response.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, the Student Government, undersigned student organizations, and students of CUNY School of Law join the faculty of CUNY in condemning the use of violence against peaceful protesters everywhere; and

Be it further resolved, we call upon the CUNY administration to respectfully support and engage students, educators and community members in dialogue regarding access to education, the nature of our education and tuition costs; and

Be it further resolved, we call upon the CUNY administration to respectfully support and engage students, educators and community members who wish to open space for protest, dissent and discussion in our community; and

Be it further resolved, the use of violence against peaceful protesters is intolerable at CUNY; and

Be it further resolved, no member of the CUNY community be subjected to violence when exercising the natural right to protest; and

Be it further resolved, we demand that no member of the CUNY community call the police in the name of health or safety to keep people from peacefully protesting and exercising their natural rights.

November 28, 2011 Flushing, NY

Student Government of CUNY School of Law