*[(View Chancellor Syverud’s video message)](https://vimeo.com/373510049)*

Good evening students, faculty, staff, Orange families, alumni and friends.

I am concerned, disgusted and outraged by recent multiple hate speech incidents. The incidents targeted our African American, Asian and Jewish communities. They have occurred on and near the Syracuse University campus.

Let me be clear: These racist and antisemitic incidents are hate speech.

We do support free speech at Syracuse University for our students, faculty and community. Our Orange values, however, require that we be emphatic about the difference between free speech and hate speech. These incidents are hate speech and not free speech.

When these hateful acts—at Day Hall, the Physics Building and on Walnut—produce dangerous and hostile environments, it is the responsibility of our university—and our community— to step up.

I am stepping up. Our students at the Barnes Center have stepped up. Many other members of our community, including students, faculty and staff from all over campus, have stepped up. I ask each of you to step up as well.

All week, I have been meeting with law enforcement leaders, and listening to students, faculty and staff. I met today with participating students in the Barnes Center, with International students, and with students at Hillel. I heard about the painful effect of these incidents on our students and our community. I discussed concrete steps the University will be taking in response to student recommendations, and I will be providing further detailed responses next week.

I have also been working hard with the Department of Public Safety. DPS is working with the Syracuse Police Department and the New York State Police Hate Crimes Task Force. They are investigating multiple incidents rigorously and appropriately to identify those responsible for these heinous acts so that we will hold them accountable. We are also working with our Student Experience team to provide a safe environment for our students to peacefully protest.

If you care about our students, if you care about our University, and you have information relevant to identifying the perpetrators of these incidents, I urge you to speak up.

I am grateful to our students who are putting forward tangible solutions to some of the most pressing climate issues confronting our community.

I am committed to the difficult conversations we are having on our campus.

I am committed to keeping students, faculty, staff, families and alumni promptly informed, both about incidents as they occur and the University’s response.

And I am committed to upholding the values we aspire to as a University. These Orange values include respecting all people of all backgrounds at all times, in our residence halls, in our classroom buildings, and on our streets.

I cannot promise you that in these fraught times in our country, there will be no more hateful incidents in our community. But, I can promise that our University will respond in the future transparently and quickly, and will clearly assert our Orange values of inclusion and of rejecting hate.

I thank you.