

To: Montgomery College Community
From: Dr. Jermaine F. Williams, President
Subject: Tyre Nichols' Killing
Date: January 28, 2023

I write today to check in with our College community. Last night, the Memphis Police Department released a horrific video with footage of five officers beating Tyre Nichols after a traffic stop on January 7, 2023. The merciless violence enacted upon a defenseless man was heinous. These acts reignite a deep and continuous suffering built on the cumulation of indignities we have witnessed over the years—many of them victimizing people of color. These inhumane acts can reintroduce and cause trauma, leaving us filled with emotion, causing us to worry about our own safety and the safety of those we love. They may leave us questioning why such violence continues and wondering when it will end. Such egregious violations have no place in our society.

As we grapple, in our own ways, with this horrifying reality, please know that you are part of a safe, welcoming, and inclusive community that appreciates and supports you. Montgomery College is a community dedicated to improving society and standing against injustice and inequity. We are a collection of beautifully diverse individuals, across so many spectrums, striving to be the change we seek. The College will continue to create opportunities to advance justice and right inequities.

As you process this, please know there are opportunities for support. A student forum has been organized on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus on January 31 at 11 a.m., hosted by the Institute for Race, Justice, and Civic Engagement. Three racial healing circles have been scheduled for February 10, 17, and 24 on the Rockville Campus. Please contact [Irene Moses](#), director of the MC Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Campus Center, for registration and details. I encourage faculty and staff to take advantage of opportunities to support students—and each other—as we process this most recent tragic chapter in our community.

Students experiencing difficulties may take advantage of county [resources](#) or MC [counseling](#). Faculty and staff can use the [Faculty Staff Assistance Program](#). Let us all consider how we can support each other and add meaningfully to the dialogue around racial justice, transformation, and healing.