

To: Montgomery College Community
From: Dr. Jermaine F. Williams, President
Subject: **Community Values and Safety**
Date: April 16, 2024

Our commitment at Montgomery College is to foster a vibrant intellectual environment where diverse viewpoints are presented and critically examined. There can be no doubt that the College values open discourse and encourages dialogue on all perspectives of any issue. Together, we achieve this through a variety of academic programs, lectures, and discussions. It is also important to ensure that discourse at our College is done with civility and in a way that creates a safe space for true dialogue and understanding.

The College will not tolerate antisemitism, Islamophobia, or any narratives or actions that breed hate. The film, *The Occupation of the American Mind*, depicts antisemitic tropes and fosters antisemitism. It does not uphold our values of respect, civility, and providing a safe and welcoming environment. The impending screening of this film is causing fear, anxiety, and distress for many in our community. As such, the organizers of this event should forgo its viewing. Instead, we will continue to find ways to highlight a diversity of perspectives that build understanding and enhance a sense of belonging for all.

As we discussed during the opening of Equity Week just yesterday, MC strives to be a place of belonging for our students, faculty, and staff. Together, we must uphold our values of respect, civility, and provide a safe and welcoming environment for all while we remain committed to academic freedom and free speech.