

Dear Ruth and Olivia:

Thank you again for writing and sharing with me your concerns and demands. I am writing to provide you additional information about our strong commitment to continuing our collaborations with you, with all of our student leaders and with our broader campus and Boulder community to accelerate our change to overcome racism and inequality and make the real progress we desire together. The urgency of this work has never been greater.

As your message demonstrates, we still have much to do to improve our campus culture so that Black students and students of color feel safe and welcome. Our work is underway across many units, and I invite you to continue engaging with Vice Chancellor Bob Boswell, who is leading the coordination of these campus-wide efforts. Our Center for Inclusion and Social Change continues to engage with the Black Student Alliance and additional student groups to address long-standing and systemic racial issues on our campus. While you have graduated, Olivia, I do hope you and Ruth are able to join these conversations as we redouble our efforts to address these issues rapidly this summer and beyond.

With regard to your letter, I'd like to provide you the following updates on areas where we have common interests and opportunities to enable change.

Led by Police Chief Doreen Jokerst, the university is actively addressing the racial practices in our policing. At this time, the CU Boulder Police Department participates in diversity training (De-escalation, Implicit Bias, Employing the Latest Techniques in non-lethal force, Conflict De-escalation, Make Vital Connections with Campus Groups and Organizations) and is in a continuous partnership with the City of Boulder Police Department. I have confidence in Chief Jokerst's leadership.

I also understand from Chief Jokerst that she is in a productive partnership with the City of Boulder Police Chief and both departments are working toward these issues with strong intention. Ending this partnership would not well serve our students of color, or our student body more generally, as it is key to ensuring the safety of the campus community in a variety of ways: in times of emergency – such as floods and wildfires; in assisting with investigations of crimes against students that occur off campus – including crimes against students of color; and in searches and rescues and locating missing persons. Chief Jokerst will keep me apprised of that relationship to ensure we continue to make progress on issues of concern to the Black community and other communities of color on campus about police conduct, community engagement, and transparency.

Additionally, the university has started a review of the statutory requirements related to its partnership with the Colorado Department of Corrections. Vice Chancellor Boswell will provide updates on this review, and I encourage you to continue to raise this issue in your conversations.

On a related note, I have asked Vice Chancellor Boswell to work with our students to explore options that can enable the use of our endowment funds to support businesses and initiatives involving formerly incarcerated people. As you know, university purchasing is governed by Colorado Revised Statutes Title 17. Corrections § 17-24-111, but we can begin to explore how to make changes. I have also asked Vice Chancellor Boswell to work with our students to explore options that can enable the use of our university funds to support businesses and initiatives involving formerly incarcerated people. While the way our endowment operates is not easily repurposed and other legal parameters exist, we welcome the opportunity to explore the options available to us to pursue opportunities that support this intent.