SAFETY ADVISORY
American University Police

Release Date: May 5, 2017

Responding to & Preventing Cyber Harassment

An online post authored by a white supremacist was discovered on May 4, 2017, by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) targeting a student leader. American University Police is investigating the incident and encourages the community to follow these safety tips on cyber harassment.

*If you have information related to this incident, or witness suspicious activity online or in person, please call the American University Police at **202-885-3636** or **911** for the Metropolitan Police Department.*

Make a Confidential Tip through the University Police Webpage at:
http://www.american.edu/finance/publicsafety/tips.cfm

Safety Tips
Managing Your Social Media Presence
- Restrict your social media settings to private to limit access to only friends and family members.
- Decline requests from unknown individuals to follow or "friend" you on social media.
- Remove and restrict personal identifiers on social media, including phone numbers, birth dates and physical addresses.
- Avoid using geolocation features, such as "checking in," on social media.
- Remove or restrict messaging apps like Facebook Messenger or Snapchat.
- Create a separate email address to manage social media that is not linked to your primary personal, work or school accounts.
- To track public information posted about you, use a service like Google Alerts https://www.google.com/alerts and notify operators to remove content when found.

Responding to Cyber Harassment
- Avoid escalating the contact. Do not respond to messages or posts containing harassment or threats. People engaging in this type of activity are looking for a reaction; do not give it to them.
- If you are a victim of cyber harassment or threats, screenshot the content and note of the dates and times.
- File a police report for cyber harassment or threats with local law enforcement. If it is possible to positively identify individuals who are cyber harassing or threatening you, work with law enforcement, courts, and victim advocates to obtain restraining orders against them.
- Notify social media sites of harassment or threats with as much detail as possible, including the impact it had on you and others. Most social media sites list this under Safety, Privacy, or Help.
- If there is a felonious criminal or financial element to the cyber threats or harassment, submit a complaint to the FBI's IC3 system https://www.ic3.gov

Personal Safety
- Be aware of the emergency telephones (yellow boxes on pillars, blue light emergency phone towers, and red telephones) located on campus, in building lobbies, elevators, and in parking lots.
- The University Police provides escorts, twenty-four hours a day/seven days a week, for community members. To arrange an escort, call (202) 885-2527 or use a blue light or red emergency phone.
- For off-campus assistance in the event of a crime or emergency, contact 911. For on campus crimes and emergencies, contact (202) 885-3636.
- Install the Rave Guardian application on your cell phone. Rave Guardian allows you to:
    - Set your Rave Guardian Safety Timer. If the Safety Timer is not deactivated before it expires, AU Police is automatically provided with the user's Rave Guardian profile to proactively identify and locate the individual.
    - Activate a panic button that immediately alerts the AU Police of your location.
    - More information is available at: http://www.american.edu/finance/publicsafety/Rave-Guardian.cfm

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If you would like a copy of this advisory, please visit: http://www.american.edu/finance/publicsafety/crimealerts.cfm

EMERGENCY: 202-885-3636