



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

W A S H I N G T O N , D C

**TO:** The American University Community

**FROM:** Fanta Aw, Interim Vice President of Campus Life

**SUBJECT:** Racial Incident Involving Bananas on Campus

American University was alerted to a racist incident that occurred in our community. Bananas hanging from string in the shape of nooses were found in three places on campus, and were marked with the letters AKA (which are the letters of Alpha Kappa Alpha, a sorority whose members are predominantly African American women). Photos began circulating on social media this morning.

These racist, hateful messages have no place in our community. The safety of our students is paramount. The American University Department of Public Safety is investigating. Anyone with information to share about this incident is encouraged to go to the [AUPD TIPS site](#) or call 202.885.2527.

The University will have more to share about this incident shortly.