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From: President Daniels <[REDACTED]@johnshopkins.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2017 5:15 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Homewood campus safety and security update

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Dear Homewood Students, Faculty, and Staff:

I am writing to update you on recent efforts to ensure the safety and security of our campus community.

As you know, over the last several months, the neighborhoods near the Homewood campus have experienced a very concerning spate of crimes, including a series of robberies (both armed and unarmed), the most recent of which occurred last night. Most of these robberies have been concentrated near the eastern perimeter of our off-campus patrol area and have followed a similar pattern, with juveniles or young adults approaching one or more students or community members and demanding their wallets and cellphones. In some cases, the robberies were part of a larger wave across the city involving the same group of perpetrators; in others, they appear to be singular events. The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has made arrests in more than half of these crimes and is actively investigating the others, with our close collaboration and support.

We have been dogged in our determination to keep our campuses safe and secure, and we understand that a comprehensive and visible security presence is the best way to deter crime. As we have communicated in the past, to supplement the efforts of the BPD, our university has invested significant resources in increasing the size of our campus security force and deploying (armed) off-duty police officers and (unarmed) Allied Universal security guards. We constantly re-evaluate our strategy and tactics and recently further intensified our evening security presence in the area to the east of campus, with 12 additional security personnel (including along Guilford Avenue) and three additional car patrols. Also, we have decided to build a special response unit of highly trained former police officers whose mandate and location will be targeted to current or evolving threats. These steps will complement actions by BPD, which has dedicated more on-duty police patrols to our area and prioritized criminal investigations for incidents occurring near our campuses.

Other ongoing investments include upgrading and expanding our extensive network of security cameras, which have proved useful in crime deterrence and investigation, and working closely with the City of Baltimore on improved lighting and safety on city streets adjacent to campus. We are moving forward with plans to build and renovate more on-campus and affiliated housing, in order to provide more close-to-campus options for juniors and seniors. And we know from our own experience (and the experience of other urban universities) that the best long-term strategy to increase the safety of the campus community is to nurture and invest in neighborhoods for stable mixed-income residents, strong schools, green spaces, and good public amenities; we have seen significant improvements in neighborhood safety after completing several major mixed-use development projects, such as 9 East 33rd, Remington Row and RHouse.

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In mounting these security-related initiatives, we are consulting closely with local and national experts, and will be guided by the best available evidence on the benefits, risks, and efficacy of different interventions. We know well the challenges posed by the surge in violence in cities across the country, and we are resolutely determined that our campuses and their environs will be places where our students, faculty, and staff are safe, and able to immerse themselves fully in the experience and mission of Johns Hopkins.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Daniels
President