

Dear Anthropology students,

The UCR Department of Anthropology supports the UC Cops Off Campus Coalition's day of state-wide action on 10/1. In the wake of organizing for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), many of our Black, Brown, and Indigenous students also faced the global health pandemic, ecological crisis, and the continued threat of racialized police violence. We must acknowledge that policing disproportionately violates Black, Brown, Indigenous, queer, trans, and poor peoples and immigrants and ultimately renders all members of campus and its surrounding communities less safe. We are committed to a public university that advances racial justice by ending such forms of harm, and we support students working towards this vision.

The Department of Anthropology will not retaliate against undergraduate or graduate students who join the abolition events happening state-wide on 10/1 or beyond for exercising their first amendment rights. Further, the department opposes any threat of retaliation that may come from the administration, and stands beside our students in the struggle for racial justice and a more liveable university environment for all.

We are disappointed that the university has not yet taken substantive action to provide alternatives to policing in the face of incontrovertible evidence regarding the racialized harm it perpetuates. We reiterate our call for the UCR administration to substantively respond to the calls for divestment from police and policing on our campus. Our prior statement from July 2020 remains available at <https://anthropology.ucr.edu/>

In solidarity

The Department of Anthropology
University of California, Riverside