



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 27, 2017

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Circumstances have arisen this week that lead me to announce today that SUNY Old Westbury will be postponing the Voices Against Violence tribunal that had been scheduled for tomorrow, April 28.

My goal in developing the format for this event was to ensure we had elected and appointed decision-makers alongside community leaders on our panel. These men and women, after hearing testimony from the voices of Long Island's activist, business, religious and other communities, would then move forward together and impact policy and practice in our communities and our state, leading to substantive positive change.

News yesterday broke that U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions would visit Long Island on Friday. Understandably, the commissioners of the Nassau and Suffolk police departments must make their schedules available to the highest-ranking law enforcement official in the nation. Additionally, earlier this week State Senator Carl Marcellino had offered his regrets that he would not be able to attend as he needed to be available to tend to state business at the State Majority Leader's request.

While I am pleased our community leaders remain firmly committed to the event, not having the public officials available severely limits the impact the anticipated testimony would fuel.

Because all at SUNY Old Westbury value the time and intelligence of those who had agreed to participate, I want to ensure the best setting for all to be heard. I am certain it is best to wait for a time when we can again secure elected representatives and law enforcement leadership to be a part of that dialogue.

I will contact the members of the event working group shortly to discuss setting a new date for Voices Against Violence, which will likely be set for the fall.

Thank you to all who have agreed to be a part of this important event. Our work is not finished, only slowed.

Sincerely,

Calvin O. Butts, III  
President