



Office of the President

John Carmichael, Ph.D.

Dear Evergreen Community,

As we collectively navigate the grief and aftermath of last week's tragedy on our campus, I'm writing today to answer some of your questions about campus housing and the steps we have recently taken.

Thanks to those of you who attended the community webinar last Friday and for sharing questions. I'd like to acknowledge that we don't yet have answers to some of the questions that were posed. We will continue to work toward providing those answers.

We want to correct some inaccurate information that was released during the early hours after the events unfolded. In the college's press release that was sent on December 12, there were two inaccurate statements. One referenced the incorrect title of the person who initially called campus police. Their accurate job title is Resident Maintenance Technician, rather than Residence Manager. The release also noted the door to the housing unit was broken down by an Evergreen police officer. The door to the unit was in fact unlocked and that was reported accurately by Chief Brunckhurst. The responding officer performed emergency CPR on the students within the unit. We apologize for these inaccuracies and thank those who corrected them.

Below are some updates based on questions we've heard over the last week:

- Campus housing:
 - The fire marshal performs annual inspections each summer of the Housing Community Center and the dorm buildings. As of last week, there were no outstanding corrections that were ordered by the fire marshal for those spaces.
 - Convergint, our alarm systems contractor, completes annual testing and inspections of alarm systems in campus buildings.
 - After last week's events, we have engaged several consultants to conduct a comprehensive inspection of all housing facilities to identify any safety concerns.

- Modular housing:
 - There are no students currently residing in the seven modular units with propane-burning appliances. Many students traveled off campus for winter break, and we have provided hotel accommodations to all the students who were planning to be in the units over break.
 - There are carbon monoxide detectors in the seven units that have propane-burning appliances.
 - If the college elects to reoccupy those seven modular buildings in the future, they will be fully converted to all electric appliances before students move back in.

- Apartments and A Dorm:
 - The dorms and the apartments use electric appliances and heat. These appliances are not a source of carbon monoxide and thus do not require carbon monoxide detectors.
 - As of August, A Dorm was renovated and went through rigorous safety inspections prior to students moving in for fall quarter.
 - Before occupancy, A Dorm was inspected and approved by the fire marshal.

- Ongoing information and communication:
 - The college has been in contact with the families directly impacted by this tragedy.
 - A specific message to parents/families of current students was sent on December 15 and posted on our [Campus Tragedy Information](#) webpage. It is important to note that email addresses for parents/families are voluntarily collected, so not all students have this contact information connected to their records.
 - College leadership convened two meetings with Residential and Dining Services (RAD) professional and student staff to support and address the needs of those staff and students, and to reduce barriers to communication and feedback. These meetings will continue.
 - The college has initiated a community support and response team. This team can be contacted at community-response@evergreen.edu. This team can help address community support or communications response needs. Please feel free to direct communications to this email address as needed.
 - Visit the [Campus Tragedy Information](#) webpage for the most up-to-date information, including action steps the college is taking, communications to students, families, staff and faculty; future webinars; events; and more. Please also share this resource as needed.
 - Resources for students, staff and faculty are also available on this webpage.

And lastly, we have been asked if the "For Jonathan" artwork near Evans Hall will be maintained. The college will honor this space and would also like to consult with Jonathan's family on creating a permanent memorial in the future.

John Carmichael, President

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