

**Brown University  
Community Gathering  
March 18, 2008  
Crystal Room, Alumnae Hall**

**Remarks of Russell Carey  
Interim Vice President for Campus Life and Student Services**

Good evening and thank you for coming tonight. This gathering is an opportunity for members of the Brown community to receive information, ask questions, and share concerns and ideas about the incident this past weekend and the issues it has raised on our campus and the surrounding community. I want to begin by giving you an overview of what we plan to do during this time. For the first half of the meeting I am going to provide the facts as we know them and – along with my colleagues – answer questions as best we can. We will do that for about a half-hour or so. Following that there will be an opportunity for all of you to talk with each other in smaller groups, with student and staff facilitators, about the issues, concerns and feelings evoked by this incident, and to share perspectives and ideas. There will be an opportunity for the small groups to report out on those discussions and we will also have a note taker in each group to make sure we capture the concerns and ideas, and also any questions that we may not get to in the first half of the meeting. We will end no later than 7:00 pm.

You should also know that this is an open meeting and there are members of the media present. We have asked that no pictures or video be taken in the room and this is not a press conference but I did want you to know that it is a public forum.

We thought it would be important to start with an overview of the facts as we know them. I understand this may be repetitious for some of you and that it will also be incomplete because the incident remains the subject of an ongoing investigation by the Providence Police Department and other agencies. There will likely be more questions than answers at this time about what happened and why, and the extent of what I or law enforcement representatives can say will be limited by our knowledge and the ongoing investigation.

What we do know is that early Saturday morning, March 15, the Providence Police Department notified Brown University's Department of Public Safety that two combustible devices, more commonly referred to as Molotov Cocktails, were thrown at an off-campus apartment building in which an employee of Brown/RISD Hillel lives. The incident occurred at approximately 1:15 am. One of the devices struck the outside of the building and caused minor scorching to the exterior and burned out. The other device was thrown into the second floor apartment occupied by the employee and did not ignite. No one, including the employee, was injured in the incident.

Neither the perpetrator or perpetrators, nor the motivation of the incident, is known at this point. The Providence Police Department, in conjunction with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the U.S. Attorney's Office and in coordination with Brown Public Safety, have given this incident the highest level of attention and investigative resources since it occurred. Members of the Providence Police Department command staff attended a meeting at Brown/RISD Hillel Sunday evening and it was clear to everyone present how seriously they are taking this matter and how hard they are working on identifying who is responsible.

What we do know is that this was a serious and reprehensible act of violence that affected a member of our community. It is important that we acknowledge that and in doing so stand together as a community and repudiate any acts of violence in any place at any time, on our campus or off.

The employee of Brown/RISD Hillel has been widely identified in the media by name, but I will not do so here out of respect for his privacy. I do wish to acknowledge, however, our sorrow that this happened. The employee's position with Brown/RISD Hillel is in partnership with the Jewish Agency, which sends Israeli emissaries around the world to conduct educational, religious, and cultural programs. He has been an active and engaged member of our community throughout this year, and has made significant contributions to the process of dialogue, peace and justice for all of our students. We thank him for that and stand with him in support during this very difficult time.

As President Simmons noted in her letter to the community Sunday night, we have been working closely with the director of Brown/RISD Hillel to address safety and security at their building. The Department of Public Safety is attending to safety concerns generally as well, and any members of the community who have questions or concerns about safety should feel free to voice them this evening or later to us directly.

As I noted this incident remains the subject of an ongoing investigation. Three organizations, in cooperation with the Providence Police Department, yesterday announced a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone responsible. Any individuals with information relevant to the investigation should contact the Brown Department of Public Safety.

I want to also acknowledge that we in the administration did not do as well as we should have in communicating information to the campus community this weekend. An incident that occurs off the campus and out of our jurisdiction often takes more time to gather information about than something which occurs on campus, but it is clear to us that we should have acted more quickly in providing information to the campus. As I said to students on Sunday evening, I can not change what has already happened but I can assure you that we recognize that issue and are taking steps to review our protocols and procedures to do better going forward.

Before we open to the floor for questions, I want to read the concluding paragraph of the letter President Simmons sent to the community on Sunday. She wrote:

“There is nothing more unsettling on a campus than to have acts that might seek to spread fear, intimidate, or harm individuals. Swift action to condemn such behavior and strongly restate our values of openness and mutual respect is an essential step at such moments. I ask each member of the community to join me in doing that.”

Our hope is that the conversations we will have tonight and in other settings and forums in the days and weeks ahead will do exactly that. This is not an incident that is limited to one individual or one community. Issues of respect and tolerance and violence affect us all and we all have a responsibility to stand up for what is right and stand against what is wrong. I encourage all of you to engage in discussion tonight and beyond with that spirit in mind.

Thank you, and I would like to now open the floor for questions.