Joint Statement by Alan Campbell, Paloma Fernandez and Loyola University of Chicago

Alan Campbell and Paloma Fernandez are alumni of Loyola University of Chicago. They both graduated in May 2018, Alan with a BBA in Marketing and Entrepreneurship from the Quinlan School of Business and Paloma with a BA in Political Science and Spanish from the College of Arts and Sciences.

An incident occurred on February 24, 2018 on Loyola’s Lake Shore Campus that involved Alan and Paloma and police officers in Loyola’s Campus Safety Department. Loyola, Alan and Paloma agree that the facts related to the incident on February 24, 2018 are in dispute. Although Alan and Paloma and the officers have very different perceptions of what occurred during the incident, Loyola respects Alan and Paloma’s right to speak out against what they perceived to be an injustice.

The incident on February 24, 2018 prompted a wide-ranging discussion at Loyola about many issues associated with race, including implicit bias, racial profiling and interactions between students of color and Campus Safety police officers. For example, students held a rally and walk-out on February 28, 2018, a town hall on March 1, 2018 and a rally and march to Burrowes Hall on March 2, 2018.

Loyola administrators met with students of color and heard their concerns about race at Loyola. Loyola also hired Hillard Heintze, a private investigation firm, to investigate the events of February 24, 2018. And, Loyola convened a Task Force of Loyola students, faculty and other individuals to make recommendations to help improve relationships between Campus Safety and students of color.

Hillard Heintze issued a report in May 2018 that Loyola published on its internal website. Alan and Paloma believe the Hillard Heintze report is flawed and presents them in a false light. Although Loyola does not agree with this claim, Loyola recognizes that there are different accounts of what occurred on that date and that it is not possible to state conclusively which account is most accurate. Loyola agrees in particular that the conclusions in the Hillard Heintze report that Alan and Paloma interfered with Campus Safety police officers are based on disputed facts. Loyola, therefore, has withdrawn the Hillard Heintze report from its website.

Because of the many disputed facts, Loyola also has removed a February 25, 2018 Campus Safety publication from its website that described Alan and Paloma as interfering with the police. Alan and Paloma also assert that two Loyola Phoenix articles published in February and March 2018 incorrectly reported that Alan had been “arrested.” Loyola does not agree with that assertion, but does agree that the word “detained” more accurately describes what occurred on February 24, 2018.
Loyola, Alan and Paloma have shared beliefs in the dignity of all persons and the need for our society to continue to examine and address issues of racial injustice. The community conversation that followed the incident will help Loyola further its mission of welcoming and supporting students of color and educating Loyola students to be men and women for others. Loyola’s aspiration continues to be to build a community of authentic hospitality and inclusive excellence.