



University of Maryland, College Park
Residence Hall Association
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STATEMENT ON THE RHA RESIDENT POLICE COMMITTEE

A clarification of the committee's initiatives

In May of 2019, the Residence Hall Association passed a [resolution](#) creating the Resident and Police Committee (RPC) to allow students to voice their safety concerns to the University of Maryland Police Department. While there have recently been opinion pieces published in regard to a few of the committee's discussions so far, there have been no proposals for RHA to take a stance on any campus safety issues and there are no current plans to do so.

An article [introducing RPC](#) in The Diamondback stated: "The committee plans to hold events in dorms with guest speakers and develop educational programs aimed at bringing students and police together for interactions in calm, non-confrontational settings." In response, an [opinion piece](#) was published, titled "UMD RHA shouldn't be inviting UMPD into dorms." We would like to clarify that the committee will not mandate inviting police officers to residence halls, but rather plans to provide campus safety programming resources to our councils for optional events. Guests invited into residence halls as a result of hall or area council events are entirely up to the discretion of our council members, who are elected to serve their individual communities. It is not our intention to have "non-confrontational settings" refer to residence halls.

The original news article also states that "the committee hopes to introduce legislation in favor of banning whiteboards in dorm hallways." Though addressing hate bias incidents on whiteboards was a discussion among the members of the committee, it was agreed upon to not propose any action without gathering the opinions of residents, especially those who may have been impacted by such incidents. In regards to another [opinion piece](#), the above quote does not reflect the position of RHA, as discussions in any of our committees must be passed through both the committee and RHA Senate in the form of a resolution to become official. RHA has no current proposal to ban whiteboards, but will continue to discuss solutions to address hate bias incidents on campus.

We truly appreciate the time taken by these authors to provide feedback on such important issues. We always welcome any comments or concerns regarding on-campus resident life and encourage anyone who is passionate about the topics mentioned in this statement or beyond to contact us at MarylandRHA@umd.edu or attend one of our biweekly Senate meetings on Tuesday nights. Details on official RHA legislation and other contact information can be found on our website, rha.umd.edu.

- This statement was written and approved by the RHA Executive Team. -