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March 14, 2022

Dr. Heidi Macpherson, President  
Office of the President  
350 New Campus Drive  
Brockport, NY 14420

Dear President Macpherson,

I am writing to you regarding an upcoming event at SUNY Brockport entitled “History of Black Resistance, U.S. Political Prisoners & Genocide” featuring convicted cop-killer Anthony Bottom, now known as Jalil Muntaqim. It is intellectually dishonest and insulting to refer to Anthony Bottom as a “political prisoner.”

Anthony Bottom is a convicted cop-killer, who, along with two others, lured two New York City Police Officers to a residence and murdered them in cold blood. Describing him as a “political prisoner” in a campus program is not only an insult to individuals who have been imprisoned for speaking out against political opposition – it is also an insult to the men and women of law enforcement who have lost their lives protecting our communities and their families.

The widow of one of the fallen officers, Joseph Piagentini, reacted to Anthony Bottom’s parole by stating, “We are heartbroken to see another of Joe’s killers set free by politics. But more than anything, we are angry.” I have no doubt she has similar feelings to learning he is being welcomed to SUNY Brockport for an “intellectual conversation.” I share her anger, as do many members of the community.

Furthermore, I question if the University or Chief Diversity Officer thought about any students who are family members of law enforcement. A member of your faculty, while speaking on the *Joey Jackson Intercultural Center* last year, said, “If we can make our students feel safe and comfortable on campus, they will contribute more to the college and our community, which in turn will make Brockport a more inclusive space.” I am not sure how Anthony Bottom makes any student feel safer on campus – especially those who have family members in law enforcement.

I ask you to consider those students who have fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, grandparents or any family member in law enforcement, and rescind Anthony Bottom’s invitation to speak on campus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robt-G. Ort". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert G. Ort  
Senate Minority Leader  
62<sup>nd</sup> District