How to protest safely.

You have a right to make yourself heard in protest.

We fully support you in this, and in the cause of public education. But as faculty, we want more than anything for you to remain safe. Here are six things you should know to keep yourself safe while engaged in peaceful protest.

1. If a police officer tells you to do something, do it—even if you think the officer shouldn’t be asking. Arguing back, or otherwise failing to comply, may result in your immediate arrest, because it is against the law not to obey an officer’s order. Take a badge number and file a complaint later instead.

2. Do not tear or cross police tape or move barricades. If the police line is compromised, police may use force to maintain the line. Try to keep a couple yards’ distance from the line.

3. If you see property being vandalized or police equipment (e.g., cars) being handled by the crowd, leave the scene. The police will act. Innocent observers on the scene may be arrested by mistake.

4. If you are in the middle of a crowd and want to leave:
   a. Turn away from the barricade.
   b. Stay on your feet.
   c. Use your hands to push your way out of the crowd.

5. If the police tell you to disperse or move back, do so immediately. Failure to do so could result in your arrest, or in the use of force against you.

6. If you want to be arrested, consider the possible student conduct consequences. If you still choose to be arrested, tell the officer and follow his or her instructions. Remember that anything you say to a police officer can be later used against you or your companions. You can assert your right to remain silent and to ask for a lawyer before you are questioned.

Be smart and stay safe!