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Dartmouth Association of Latino/a/x Alumni (DALA) Condemns College President's Response to Peaceful Protest

Hanover, NH – (Thursday, May 2, 2024) – Following 90 arrests on Dartmouth College's campus, **Kially Ruiz, the President of the Dartmouth Association of Latino/a/x Alumni (DALA)** issued the following statement on behalf of the organization:

> **"**As devoted alumni of Dartmouth College, DALA unequivocally denounces the involvement of police forces in dispersing peaceful protests by Dartmouth students, faculty, staff, and community members. We believe the mass arrests made last night were unreasonable and entirely unnecessary. We express profound disappointment in the Beilock Administration's decision to escalate disagreements with students and faculty by resorting to intimidating paramilitary tactics, including the deployment of police batons, bats, tear gas, and armored vehicles. This action is especially concerning as it violates the traditional space reserved for freedom of expression, peaceful dissent, and empowerment on our campus – expressions of free speech include protests related to the tragedies in Gaza and discussions regarding the College's endowment investments and divestments.
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> We are deeply worried about the physical and psychological well-being of our students, who should not be subjected to such aggressive, authoritarian, and distressing measures. We respectfully urge the immediate restoration of the historical values and sense of community that has long defined Dartmouth as a beacon to the world—a 'Vox Clamantis in Deserto' ("a voice crying out in the wilderness"). We believe, as expressed in the Values of the college, in a Dartmouth that fosters dialogue, inclusion, and mutual respect for diverse opinions. Despite the current situation, we hold onto hope that the Beilock Administration can lead by example and demonstrate to other academic institutions how dissent is embraced and how challenging conversations and political disagreements are managed within an open, democratic, and tolerant academic environment. DALA is prepared to offer love, support, and encouragement to students, faculty, and staff affected by these events."

As reported in numerous outlets, New Hampshire state police began to move in on protesters at Dartmouth College around 8:45 p.m. Eastern on May 1, 2024. 90 demonstrators were arrested following the creation of a small encampment on the Dartmouth Green and the start of an approximately 300-person planned protest. Dartmouth College did not respond to media requests regarding the arrests, but Dartmouth President, Sian Beilock, issued a statement.

About DALA:

Dartmouth Association of Latino/a/x Alumni (DALA) promotes and enriches the community of Latina/o and Latin American alumni of Dartmouth College, as well as to support current Latina/o students in their endeavors. DALA is dedicated to furthering and inspiring the College's social, cultural, intellectual, and educational development.

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