



Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

September 18, 2020

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff:

Last weekend in Los Angeles, two police officers were ambushed while sitting in their car, and this past Tuesday, the Camden home of two Camden County police officers and their 10-day-old baby was peppered with bullets. In the former incident, both officers were injured but are expected to recover and, in the latter, thankfully there were no injuries.

We are proud of and support our Camden County police force, which has received accolades nationally as a model of good, progressive community policing. As I've stated previously, supporting Black lives and being anti-racist does not equate to being anti-good policing, and supporting good policing does not mean someone is anti-Black lives or racist. Peaceful protests are a Constitutional right. Violence is never the answer. Just as CMSRU condemns racism, we also condemn violence.

We've now seen an unprecedented surge in gun violence across the United States, including, but not limited to, loss of Black lives during arrests by police or as the action of vigilantes, an increase in attacks against police, an increase in violent crimes in urban environments, and deaths of children (overwhelmingly Black children) caught in the crossfire. This is against a high baseline level of gun violence in the United States. Gun violence is a true public health crisis. All health care workers should raise our voices collectively on this important issue. The time is now!

Sincerely,

Annette C. Reboli, M.D.

Annette C. Reboli, MD
Dean and Professor of Medicine