**FIGHT RACIST HARASSMENT OF BLACK KCC STUDENTS**

Public Safety is continuing their racist harassment of antiracist Black youth. Two students were detained by five Public Safety officers for allegedly smoking, and informed they broke the Henderson Rules. One was the victim of a racist attack last fall. After being called the “n” word, this student fought back when the Kingsborough administration attempted to coerce them into accepting academic charges. Thanks to Common Ground’s Legal Defense Committee and everyone who donated, the charges were adjourned in exchange for probation. Now they’re at it again.

This racist profiling is punishment for fighting back. CUNY is supposed to be a “smoke-free” campus, but anyone who has walked through any of the outdoor spaces and stepped over the cigarette butts knows this is a joke. The reality is, for months Public Safety have selectively enforced the rules for the antiracist club Common Ground —for students and faculty alike.

It started on November 3, 2022, when a racist white student provoked members of Common Ground and shouted the n-word with the hard “r” at the recently-detained Black student, and our club’s friends. A Latin student attempted to deescalate the situation but was tackled to the ground by four campus police officers, arrested, and taken to the 61st precinct. From then on, every day, the campus cops harassed and followed friends and members of the club. They assaulted a student government officer holding leaflets, followed by a fake election to remove them from office.

KCC’s administration give antiracist students and staff two options: obey or be attacked. They enforce this in the name of “safety” and use CUNY cops and private security who have over 50 total officers on campus. This is more than Brooklyn’s four-year CUNY schools Brooklyn College and City Tech, who each have thousands more students, including double the number of post- high school traditional degree students as KCC. KCC’s students are mostly Black and immigrant, with many of the almost 30 percent “white” students recent immigrants from Eastern Europe.

In 2021, a group of Brooklyn College faculty wrote a local union chapter-endorsed statement saying “the most subtle and effective form of anti-Blackness is the liberal rhetoric that advocates equality and boasts of progress while the lived experiences of Black people stand in contrast.” We agree that liberal politicians and administrators like President Schrader speak of equity, but in practice, attack Black workers and students as part of their jobs. Six weeks before this student was detained, KCC was awarded a $1 million grant to create a “Cannabis to Cuisine” workforce development program, “assisting those with marijuana convictions.” But if you’re antiracist, smoking it will get you detained by Public Safety.

Campus cops and the admins harass antiracist students to protect those with the real power and privilege in our society: the trustees who rule CUNY, Wall Street big bankers, lawyers and bosses.

**SUPPORT THE “MAY DAY FOR CUNY” WALK OUT ON MAY 1!**