



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

**Brian F. Curran**  
Assemblyman, 21<sup>st</sup> District

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December 18, 2014

James B. Milliken, Chancellor  
The City University of New York  
205 East 42 Street  
New York, New York 10017

Dear Chancellor Milliken,

After reading several disturbing news reports regarding a protest this past week which turned violent, I respectfully request that you and your administration conduct a thorough investigation into the actions of Eric Linsker, a CUNY professor, who allegedly engaged in criminal and violent behavior during that protest.

To begin, I fully support individuals rights to protest under the First Amendment of the Constitution, but such a right should never be used as an excuse for violent behavior, especially toward members of law enforcement, specifically, the New York City Police Department. Eric Linsker, arrested on December 13, 2014, was charged with assault, weapons and marijuana possession, resisting arrest and rioting. In addition to chanting anti-police rhetoric, Linsker chose to pick up a large metal trash can and throw it at uniformed police officers, an act which led to the brutal assault of two NYPD lieutenants, Lt. Patrick Sullivan and Lt. Philip Chan, by seven other protestors.

I have always supported free speech and have always believed that anyone who disagrees with any injustice that they believe may have occurred in this society should be able to freely vocalize that opposition. Freedom of speech and opposition to any social injustice does not justify violence by anyone, against anyone, and we must demand that those seven protestors who assaulted the two NYPD officers be brought to justice immediately.

As deplorable as the acts of the seven protestors who assaulted the two police officers were, the alleged actions of CUNY Professor Linsker is just as troubling. According to reports, Linsker was arrested, released on bail, and reinstated as an adjunct for the Spring 2015 semester where he will teach two English courses. The actions of Linsker both on the Brooklyn Bridge and in the courtroom at his arraignment were not befitting of a CUNY professor. The CUNY administration should not ignore this incident and should immediately suspend Professor Linsker pending an internal investigation of the incident or a conclusion to criminal charges pending against him.

It is understandable that people may have questions and/or anger regarding the grand jury's decision not to indict in the Garner incident. It is also the right of those individuals to publicly protest and question that decision. However, that right does not extend to engaging in violent acts against police officers. There should be no allowance or excuse for such behavior.

The actions of those seven protestors in assaulting the two officers, as well as Professor Linsker violently throwing a metal garbage can at NYPD officers, cannot and must not be ignored. While we must respect and protect protestors' rights, we must also remember that police officers risk their lives to serve and protect our communities and to make sure that laws are being followed. As a paid professor and educator of young adults, Professor Linsker should have recognized this fact before throwing that metal garbage can at New York City Police Officers during this demonstration. As such, Professor Linsker must be held accountable for any poor decisions or violent action he took that evening.

Until this senseless act of violence involving a member of your staff against a law enforcement officer is addressed and investigated by your administration, I will vote against any future legislation or budget bill to provide funding to City University of New York..

I appreciate your swift action regarding this incident and look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Curran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "C".

Brian Curran  
Member of Assembly, 21<sup>st</sup> AD