**For a Full Investigation into the Death of College of Staten Island (CSI) Cafeteria Worker Corey Holmes**

**(Submitted by Jay Arena on behalf of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology)**

**Whereas**, the College of Staten Island Governance Plan, which we have mightily defended, states that “Everyone participating in the College community has important, legitimate, and respected roles and responsibilities in sustaining and furthering the goals of the College”, and therefore when anyone in our community has those rights violated, it is an assault on the rights of all; and

**Whereas**, November 29, 2021 marks ten years since long time CSI Cafeteria worker Corey Holmes died after an engagement with New York Police Department officers on the campus of the College of Staten Island; and

**Whereas**, the corporate press, including the *New York Post* (which ran a headline of a [“Pot Smoking SI Thug . . . ”](https://nypost.com/2011/12/15/pot-smoking-si-thug-who-died-of-apparent-heart-attack-after-fleeing-cop-was-violent-fugitive-from-texas/)), and the *Daily News* (which described a “[wild Holmes](https://www.nydailynews.com/news/crime/man-smoking-pot-college-staten-island-dies-confrontation-police-article-1.984099)”), failed to seriously investigate the death of Holmes; and

**Whereas**, under the Memorandum of Understanding between the New York Police Department and the City University of New York, NYPD personnel are to only enter on CUNY campuses in “non-emergency” situations “[upon the request or approval of a CUNY official designated by CUNY as having authority to make such a request](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cjaren%5COneDrive%5CDocuments%5Cactivism%5CNY%20activism%5CCSI%5CCorey%20Holmes%20case%20CSI%5CNew%20York%20Police%20Department)”; and

**Whereas**, the official version of events, which attributed Holmes’ death to “[cardiac arrest](https://gothamist.com/news/si-man-dies-after-cop-catches-him-smoking-pot-in-bathroom)” and later, from the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner, an “[accidental overdose](https://www.silive.com/westshore/2012/01/worker_in_nov_scuffle_with_cop.html)”, eerily mirrors the initial lie used by the Minneapolis Police Department to explain the murder of George Floyd: “[Man Dies After Medical Incident During Police Interaction](https://edition.cnn.com/2021/04/21/us/minneapolis-police-george-floyd-death/index.html)”; and

**Whereas**, a recent study by the University of Washington School of Medicine found that in the “[US between 1980 and 2018, more than 55% of deaths](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/sep/30/police-killings-not-reported-mislabelled-study), over 17,000 in total, from police violence were either misclassified or went unreported”; and

**Whereas**, the University of Washington School of Medicine study further found that there are “[large conflict of interests inherent in tracking](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/sep/30/police-killings-not-reported-mislabelled-study) police-involved deaths. Coroners are often embedded within police departments and can be disincentivized from determining that deaths are caused by police violence”; and

**Whereas**, the recent indictment of two law enforcement officer in Georgia for the murder of [Jamarion Robinson was greatly assisted by the family hiring a private investigator](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/27/us/jamarion-robinson-shooting-officers-charged.html); and

**Whereas**, our outgoing President, William Fritz, in his April 20, 2021 email to the CSI community following the conviction of Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin, wrote that we must “be resolute” in the “pursuit of justice”; and

**Whereas**, the formation of the anti-racism collective at CSI was in part prompted by the summer 2020 mass protests against police murder, particularly of African Americans; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the CSI College Council demands the next President of the College of Staten Island use the college’s resources to hire an investigator(s), approved by the College Council, to conduct a thorough investigation to determine the truth in the death of Corey Holmes.