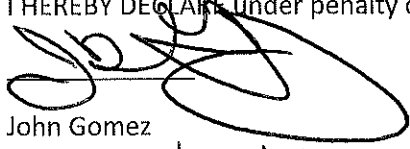


## DECLARATION OF JOHN GOMEZ

1. My name is John Gomez and my work address is 30 Campus Road, Annandale on Hudson, New York.
2. I am competent to execute this declaration, which I do upon personal knowledge.
3. I am employed by Bard College as Vice President of Operations/Security Director, and have been in that role since July 2018.
4. I served with the New York State Police Department for 29 years, and concluded my service there as a Senior Investigator.
5. During that time, I spent four years on a counterterrorism unit and 17 years in Special Operations.
6. At 3:05pm on October 25, 2020, Security dispatch received a report from a student who was with a friend.
7. In that report, one student stated she observed a male subject enter the Center using the side door and walking down to the Multipurpose Room in the Bertelsmann Center.
8. The students confronted the male, because the male appeared to be unfamiliar with the building, and our policy is that we are to have no unauthorized visitors on campus or in campus buildings.
9. The male refused to identify himself and said "I have the right to be here, don't worry about it."
10. The student observed that the subject appeared to be discreetly recording videos by holding his black iPhone to his side.
11. This made the student nervous, so she called security.
12. The student described him as male, brown hair, approximately 5' 8" with a "beer belly" wearing light brown khaki pants and a navy blue sweater with some kinds of letters on it that she couldn't read clearly. He was wearing a mask.
13. Based on this student's report, two of our campus security guards started looking for this suspect.
14. They located him in his vehicle on the Kelly Road extension, a public road.
15. They informed him that the general public is not allowed on campus due to the pandemic, and that there are signs posted across campus to that effect.
16. They asked him for his name. He would not give it. Then he left.
17. These two security guards submitted an incident report that came to my attention as well as to several other supervisors. In addition, I forwarded the report to those supervisors who work for me.
18. Based on my experience in police work and particularly in counterterrorism activities, recording videos without permission by an unauthorized person is suspicious activity. Because I was concerned, I also forwarded the incident report to the Dutchess County sheriff's office
19. I and the dispatcher spent approximately three hours today, Monday, October 26, reviewing videotape to determine where else this suspect's vehicle had been on campus and to verify that the vehicle he was in when he spoke to the security guards (a gray Nissan Sentra with a NY license plate 42DU) was the same vehicle we saw on our cameras. It was.
20. When students contact us and are concerned, we take it quite seriously.
21. Had this person contacted Bard security in advance, identified himself and stated a legitimate purpose for coming on campus and taking videos, I would have made arrangements to accommodate this person after contacting appropriate personnel on campus.

22. Even if this person was not actually recording anything while on campus, these students knew this person was violating by Bard policy by being an unauthorized person in a campus building.
23. Over the last 24 hours, this incident was a priority for me and others to determine what this person was doing in the Bertelsmann Center on a Sunday afternoon at 3:00pm, particularly because I understood the Bertelsmann Center is to be used as a polling place on November 3.

I HEREBY DECLARE under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.



John Gomez

Date: 10/27/2020