

Being Vigilant and Looking Out for One Another

April 17, 2013

Colleagues and Students,

In the aftermath of Monday's horrific tragedy, one writer lamented that Boston had joined "the brotherhood of iconic metropolises that have suffered in this age of fear," but with "bombs seemed designed more for the masses than the monumental."

The bombings at the finish line of the Boston Marathon gave our country once again the unsettlingly paradoxical portraits of a city gripped at once by both fear, yet steadfastly unbowed. As so many have noted and written, carnage was accompanied at each painful step by courage as families and first responders raced into uncertainty to save those injured, comfort those wounded, and tend to those fallen.

Hour-by-hour, a city gripped by understandable fear – alongside a country holding its collective breath once more – gave way to a steely resolve. I know you join me and everyone in the UK community in lifting up Boston and those hurt by this tragedy in our thoughts and prayers. Boston will recover. And Boston will move forward. That's what we do. We also know that many from Lexington, including some faculty, staff and students from UK, were involved in Monday's race. Thankfully, they are all safe and on their way home. And we will be there for them because that's who we are and that's what we do.

And yet, it must be noted that while our country and world increasingly live in interdependence, understanding that peaceful co-existence is to our mutual benefit, there are still those who wish to do harm and inflict maximum pain. Such malevolence respects neither geography nor race, religion nor creed.

It is a telling reminder, and, sadly, we all need such reminders, that we must always be vigilant. If you see suspicious or threatening activities, never hesitate to report it to UK or city law enforcement authorities. You can reach UK police at 859-257-8573 or #UKPD from any cell. If it an emergency you can always call 911 as well.

Our law enforcement agencies work, collaboratively, along with so many at the university, to ensure that events – from commencement to ballgames – are safe havens and conducted with your safety foremost in their minds and actions.

We all play a role, though, in ensuring that safety, just as we all play a role in helping those impacted by this horror move forward.

It is what we do.

Thank you for your commitment as members of this institutional family to staying vigilant as we look out for each other, our university and our community.

Eli Capilouto
President