

August 14, 2014

Dear [student first name]:

Welcome back to the 2014 – 2015 academic year! We hope you will enjoy living in the nearby community. We are also counting on your consideration for others that forms the foundation of responsible citizenship. There are multiple tips and resources for off campus students on the Off Campus Housing Website <http://www.american.edu/ocl/housing/off-campus-resources.cfm>. Please take time to review them and see what can be helpful to you. We have developed a short video capturing the university's expectations, campus resources, and local agency information that can be of help to you in the coming year. You can view the video at:

I and my colleagues are available to provide support to you; however, we also need your cooperation in this partnership. At a minimum, we want you to be aware of the expectations American University has for you and the guests you may choose to host at your place of residence. Remember that violations of the law are also violation of the AU Student Conduct Code and will be adjudicated according to Code provisions.

We expect you to:

- know, understand and abide by local ordinances and laws;
- know, understand and abide by the terms of your lease;
- monitor and maintain the condition of your property;
- manage the behavior of your guests; and
- when you choose to host friends at your residence, do so in a responsible, considerate and lawful manner.

Please familiarize yourself, your roommates and friends with the "Disorderly Conduct Amendment Act of 2010," which became effective on February 1, 2011. The amendments to DC law increase the specificity of prohibited conduct related to "preservation of the public peace and the protection of property" and impose serious penalties on convicted violators. While it is important for you to become familiar with all the provisions of the new act, one provision warrants your immediate attention:

"It is unlawful for a person to make an unreasonably loud noise between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. that is likely to annoy or disturb one or more other persons in their residences. [Sec. 211. Disorderly conduct. (d)] A person who violates this or any of the other provisions of this section will be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, will be fined up to \$500, imprisoned up to 90 days, or both."

The majority of our students living off campus do so without causing disturbances to neighbors, but those who do cause disturbances create a negative reputation for their peers and the university as a whole. We want to prevent this from occurring. If you would like assistance in communicating with your neighbors, or if you want to discuss ways to effectively manage your off-campus residence, please call the Office of the Dean of Students at (202)885-3300 and schedule an appointment to meet with me. I would be glad to help you develop strategies for living successfully in the local community.

Sincerely,

Michelle Espinosa  
Associate Dean of Students