# Police Disperse Pro-Palestinian Encampment at University of Michigan



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On May 2, 2024, police dispersed a pro-Palestinian encampment at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. The encampment had been established on April 22 on the Diag, a traditional protest site, near the end of the academic year and ahead of spring commencement.

University officials, led by President Santa Ono, cited safety concerns, including overloaded power sources and open flames, which were not addressed despite requests from a fire marshal. Approximately 50 demonstrators were cleared from the site, with officers using irritants to manage the crowd. At least four arrests were made, prompting a subsequent protest at the Washtenaw County jail.

Prior to the police action, tensions had escalated as protesters placed fake body bags on the lawn of Board of Regents Chair Sarah Hubbard's home and posted demands on doors of other board members. Protesters called for the university's endowment to divest from companies with ties to Israel, a move the university claimed was not applicable due to minimal indirect investments.

The event follows a series of similar protests and encampments across U.S. campuses, sparked by a police crackdown at Columbia University on April 18. These demonstrations have often resulted in tensions and arrests, pushing universities to respond to the demands and safety concerns associated with such encampments.