

Addressing the Wave of Anti-Asian Hate as a Town Entity

April 12, 2021 – Ryan Doan Nguyen

The Rise in Anti-Asian Violence

- Asian and Asian-American communities have been facing an overwhelming and escalating series of racist attacks
- Horrific targeting of Asian-owned businesses in Atlanta, Georgia, and the murder of eight people, six of whom were Asian women, follows some 3,800 hate cases against Asian Americans across the nation
- Reflection of historical and systemic prejudice against Americans of Asian descent
- Exacerbation by misleading rhetoric and insensitivity amidst the COVID-19 pandemic

My Involvement

- Background as the son of Vietnamese-Laotian war refugees leading to activism work
- Stop Asian Hate rally and march in Boston to call attention to the rise of attacks against the Asian community
- Social media and IG page @stopasianhate



Municipal Responsibility

- Importance of municipalities speaking out against the ongoing hate and violence
- Town of Westborough Diversity and Inclusion Committee's handling of the issue
 - Joint statement with Westborough Youth Commission and Westborough Youth and Family Services to town residents after Atlanta massage parlor shootings
 - Evaluation of hate crimes committed over the past years in Westborough and walkthrough of how a hate crime is filed and recorded
 - Offering of mental health services and resources

What Maynard Can Do

- Draft a joint statement with other town committees/services to publicly condemn the violence and ensure that the community members hurting know they're supported
- Encourage Maynard town residents to learn about and become involved in other events around Massachusetts supporting the Asian community, whether in-person or virtual (previous actions have included rallies, a virtual state-wide town hall about anti-Asian racism, vigils in Lowell, Quincy, Brookline, Chinatown, and so on honoring the victims of the Atlanta-area attacks)
- Support struggling businesses in Boston's Chinatown and local groups supporting the MA Asian community, such as the Chinese American Heritage Foundation, etc.

Resources

Anti-Asian Violence Resources:

- <https://anti-asianviolenceresources.carrd.co/>

Report Hate Incidents:

- Stop AAPI Hate - <https://stopaapihate.org/>
- Stand Against Hatred - <https://www.standagainsthatred.org/>

Give to the Asian Community:

- 61 Ways to Donate in Support of Asian Communities - <https://nymag.com/strategist/article/where-to- donate-to-help-asian-communities-2021.html>
- GoFundMe: Stop Asian Hate - <https://www.gofundme.com/c/act/stop-aapi-hate>

Support for AAPI Community Members:

- Asian LifeNet Hotline, 1-800-273-TALK; 1-877-990-8585, with support offered in Cantonese, Mandarin, Japanese, Korean, and Fujianese; available 24/7
- Asian Mental Health Collective - <https://www.asianmhc.org/>
- Hey Hay PH - Mental Health Support - <https://www.facebook.com/heyhay.ph/>

Questions?