



TOWN OF RIVERHEAD

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ANTI-BIAS TASK FORCE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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For Immediate Release

The Town of Riverhead's Anti-Bias Task Force was created to address the destructive effects of prejudice and racism in our community. Our responsibility is, as Ambassadors, to reach out and bring people in dialogue, join with community leadership to promote equal access to opportunity, and support legislative initiatives that address inequities in all forms.

The most recent days have been a dark sad time for the Town of Riverhead with the posting on Facebook by an individual who is consumed with anger, hatred and racism..... vile and vulgar remarks. This is hurtful and damaging to everyone, no matter the color of your skin. All acts of racism are despicable and create a negative and sometimes dangerous emotional response. The Anti-Bias Task Force will forever stand in "Unity" and categorically rejects any form of hatred, racism, bigotry, intolerance or violence. Each of us has the power to create a loving world, but we all must start by looking within ourselves. We cannot continue to perpetuate hate and anger. We need to make this an opportunity to come together as a community in an open honest and perhaps painful discussion of racism.

I wish I could say that racism and prejudice were distant memories, but that would be a lie. Going forward, as we will, we must dissent from indifference, apathy, fear, hatred and mistrust. We must dissent because Riverhead can do better, because Riverhead does have a choice to do better...

In the days to come, we will invite the community to join us in a dialogue so we all can begin to heal from this most unspeakable act of racism.

TOWN OF RIVERHEAD'S ANTI-BIAS TASK FORCE MISSION STATEMENT

Intolerance and prejudice against persons because of their race, ethnicity, age, disability, gender or Sexual orientation tears at the fabric of a democratic and pluralistic society. Acts of violence based on such Bias further alienate individuals and groups and serve to rob us of the crucial sense of security we all require in order to live, work, and play or pray in our communities. In consideration of the destructive effects of prejudice and racism in our communities and in order to address this ongoing problem, Riverhead Anti-Bias Task Force has been created.

The Task Force is a non-partisan group comprised of concerned citizens, government officials, representatives of law enforcement, education, and clergy all of whom work together to address the issue of prejudice.