



**Town of Maynard
Select Board
And
Human Relations Committee**

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
195 MAIN STREET
AYNARD, MASSACHUSETTS 01754
Tel: 978-897-1301 Fax: 978-897-8457

July 13, 2021

Dear Maynard Neighbors,

As many of you know, there has been a recent and dramatic rise in violence and discrimination against Asian and Asian American people in the United States and around the globe. Reports of horrific violence aimed Asian people in this nation continue to emerge. These actions are always devastating- to individuals, to families and whole communities, across ethnic and “racial” lines. This is particularly sad and disturbing at a time when we are seeking to emerge from a deadly pandemic that has left so many grieving and debilitated and when we should be coming together for mutual aid and healing. The Maynard Human Relations Committee and the Maynard Select Board write to you today to express our deep sadness at this targeted violence and we wish to offer our support and care to the Asian members of our community.

In May, The Maynard Human Relations Committee (HRC) was honored to welcome Ryan Doan Nguyen to our meeting. Mr. Nguyen currently serves as co-vice president of the Harvard Vietnamese Association and as a member of the Town of Westborough’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee. In March, he helped organize a “Stop Asian Hate” rally and march in Boston to call attention to the overwhelming rise of attacks against the Asian community. At our meeting, Mr. Nguyen shared a slide show and a powerful talk about the impacts of this violence and discrimination.

Mr. Doan-Nguyen’s presentation highlighted the specific ways in which anti-Asian bias manifests itself in suburban communities such as Maynard; acknowledging the problem is the first step in solving it. To this end, the presentation was also helpful in that it offered a comprehensive list of resources for supporting our Asian neighbors and fighting anti-Asian racism in our own communities. (His presentation is available on the HRC’s page on the town website and available on the HRC Facebook page. The list of resources is included below.)

We would like to address our Asian and Asian-American neighbors directly and say that The Maynard Human Relations Committee and the Select Board condemn anti-Asian violence and seek to offer you our support. We welcome your input, and encourage you to contact us with any issues of discrimination or violence you have faced in the community. We will do our best to amplify your voices, address the issues you are facing on a municipal level, and as always, continue our work to promote human rights, personal dignity and positive relations between all residents and visitors to the Town of Maynard .

Sincerely,

David Gavin, Chair, Select Board

Kathleen FitzGerald, Chair, Human Relations Committee

Enclosure: Resources

Resources:

Report Hate Incidents:

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

Hollaback! Together We Have the Power to End Harassment

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/>