



TOWN OF EASTON
MASSACHUSETTS

December 14, 2018

Dear Members of the Easton Community,


Recently, two bias and hate-related incidents occurred in the Easton public schools. The school communications on these incidents are available on the Human Rights Committee webpage. School and police officials have been working together to investigate and impose appropriate consequences.

We condemn these acts of hate. Acts of hate divide a community and make people feel isolated and fearful. Unfortunately such acts have been on the rise in recent years. According to the Anti-Defamation League, there has been a 42 percent rise in reported anti-Semitic incidents in Massachusetts from 2016 to 2017, with a nearly 60 percent rise nationwide, and according to the FBI, hate crimes rose 17 percent nationwide during the same period.


Acts of hate have no place in Easton. Easton's Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Lisha Cabral, sent a letter to parents last week outlining the curriculum currently being taught in the schools to foster values of inclusion and tolerance and steps to strengthen this work going forward. The schools cannot do this alone, however, and therefore we ask that each of you join us in our continued effort to free our community of bias incidents, civil rights violations, and hateful acts. Easton needs your active participation in creating a safe, inclusive, and welcoming community. We encourage each of you to be active bystanders and to offer public support to any victim of intolerance. Please continue to report acts of hate and bias to the Easton Police Department at 508-230-3322 and to your school principal.

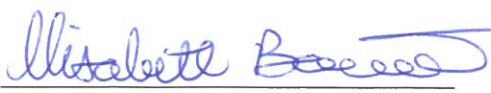
For more information on how to build an inclusive community, please visit the Human Rights Committee webpage at: http://easton.ma.us/boards_and_committees/humanrightscommittee/index.php. The Human Rights Committee welcomes your input and participation in upcoming HRC meetings.

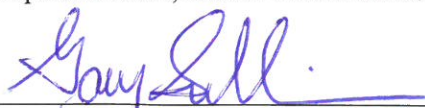

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