

Suffolk Region



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Anti-Bias Task Force
Debbie Grayer - Executive Assignee
Board of Managers Meeting Report
Zoom Meeting
September 21, 2020

Outreach, Training, Events attended:

September 14 – Attended Anti-Bias Task Force meeting

September 17 – Attended SR PTA Region Board Training

Anti-Bias Task Force Meeting
Zoom meeting
September 14, 2020

Detective Vitale from the Hate Crimes Unit reported 2 actual hate crimes in August from 44 reported possible hate crimes investigations.

- 1- Trespassing, anti-gay stickers placed on windows in Center Moriches
- 2- Black woman hit in the head at 7-11 in Bay Shore

Detective Vitale also reported YTD statistics:

5 crimes, 21 incidents and 282 reported possible hate crimes.

Although the detective focused on hate crimes and incidents, she had little information on the many reports of possible hate crimes which didn't meet their criteria as crimes and/or incidents. Our group wants to know more about what types of bias are prevalent in what areas so that we may be able to focus our attention on trouble spots. We then may be able to bring attention to what type of education is needed.

Others from our group reported knowing of more issues such as an anti-Black Lives Matter movement in Huntington, swastika graffiti on a Connetquot school, anti-Asian graffiti and a racial issue at Sea Breeze Sports Bar in Babylon. These were all recent issues in September whereas

the detective's report only included August issues. Tracey Edwards reminds us that social media issues are not included in these hate crimes statistics so the numbers will actually be higher.

She also tells us that a police reform task force is being created but has not started yet. Human Rights Commission and ACLU should be represented.

The Human Rights Commission is investigating the Brookhaven Fire Department which is not affiliated with Brookhaven town regarding Confederate flag usage. The flag actually belonged to Holbrook Fire Department. It is recommended that the NYS Fire Chiefs Council put out a national statement that Confederate flags be banned from use. They should also encourage the removal of KKK trophies on display.

Our next meeting is scheduled for October 19th.