



OBSERVER REPORT

MARBLEHEAD TASK FORCE AGAINST DISCRIMINATION: January 25, 2021
LWVM Observers: Shari Pressman, Katharine Redmond, Bonnie Grenier

Members in Attendance: Helaine Hazlett, Anne Marie Hunter, Deacon John E Whipple, Christopher Bruell, Robert Picariello, Scott Marcus, Alexis Earp, Esther Mulroy, Candice Sliney

Update on Incident in Marblehead by Chief Picariello:

- The officer involved in the incident has resigned from the MPD. Chief Picariello has contracted a Certified Investigator who is an experienced attorney and recommended by the Labor Council to do a review of the incident. The Chief wants his work to be complete and thorough so he has not given the investigator a deadline for his report. While he considers this a hate incident, he is not sure it rises to the level of a hate crime. A determination will be made after the investigation.
- The car owner told the chief about the incident on 11/13/2020. The swastika was scratched on his own car, not his police vehicle. The incident was reported this fall in conjunction with another event going on.
- Chief Picariello has met with the Anti-Defamation League and is putting together a training schedule inside the MPD.
- The ADL has a "heat map" of national incidents. They have been informed of this incident and if it meets their criteria it will appear on the map. Chris Bruell volunteered to work with the Chief to provide a form of data reporting for the town.

The Selectmen would like groups in town such as The Task Force Against Discrimination, the Marblehead Racial Justice Team, Team Harmony from the High School, and others to work together on an on-going basis to address racial justice issues.

Team Harmony has put together a presentation on the subject of racial justice for the students at the Village School to help them better understand and speak on the subject. It will be presented via Zoom on several dates.

The TFAD would like to put together an inclusive calendar of various ethnic and religious holidays to help raise awareness of other cultures and religions. There would be links on the calendar to information and events that could be used as teaching tools by the schools and others.

Funding for the work of TFAD: The task force does not currently have a financial account, budget or a formal ongoing fundraising plan. The group does have expenses, however, and would like to do some fundraising for and through their various events and projects. Helaine will discuss establishing a TFAD financial account with the Selectmen to provide a mechanism for accepting donations through the town.

Next Meeting Date: March 1 at 7 P.M.