



Town of Needham, Massachusetts Media Release

Office of the Town Manager
Town Hall, 1471 Highland Ave, Needham, MA 02492

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, June 29, 2020

CONTACT

Cyndi Roy Gonzalez

croygonzalez@needhamma.gov

Cell: 781-675-0394

Town of Needham Announces Launch of Unite Against Racism Initiative

*Initiative aims to better understand residents' experiences with racism,
seek suggestions for ensuring Town is a welcoming community*

NEEDHAM, MA -- Monday, June 29, 2020 – Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick announced today the launch of the Needham Unite Against Racism Initiative, an undertaking intended to foster a dialogue about racism in Needham and produce actionable strategies to ensure Needham is a welcoming and inclusive community.

Residents are invited to share with Town officials their personal experiences with racism or discrimination in Needham, and their concerns and suggestions for improvement.

The Town is making available information about relevant policies and procedures including those relative to policing in Needham. That information can be found [here](#). Questions from residents and corresponding answers will be posted to the webpage soon.

As a first step of this initiative, the Select Board will host a listening session **Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 6:15 pm** to hear directly from residents about their experiences in Needham and better understand what challenges exist so that the Town may help develop solutions to address them.

Residents who wish to speak during the listening session may RSVP to OTM@needhamma.gov. Residents who do not want to speak but wish to submit comments or questions may do so at the same email address. The Select Board will grant those who RSVP 2-3 minutes to speak. If there is additional time, residents who wish to speak and did not RSVP may be granted time.

The listening session will be held via Zoom. To participate or view the session, please visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86020590411>.

The Needham Unite Against Racism Initiative is intended to be an ongoing effort so that together, Town leadership and residents can engage in meaningful dialogue and craft effective solutions to identified challenges. The Town is committed to ensuring that all residents of Needham are safe and free from racism, discrimination and hate.

###