

In recognition of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, the Board of Trustees joins the Diversity and Inclusion Committee in expressing deep gratitude to the Asian American community for enriching American society through generations of meaningful cultural, civic, economic and charitable contributions.

Furthermore, we express our strong commitment to creating and maintaining a Village environment that celebrates the positive influences that populations of all ethnic backgrounds have contributed to the richness of our communal life. We encourage all Croton residents to redouble their efforts to create and sustain programs that teach acceptance and inclusion, especially in response to the uncertain and challenging circumstances we face.

Unfortunately, acts of violence targeting Asian Americans have increased since the beginning of the covid-19 public health emergency. According to the New York City Commission on Human Rights, there have been 113 recorded incidents of harassment and discrimination against Asian Americans in New York City since the coronavirus outbreak. The Westchester County Human Rights Commission has reported many instances of discrimination against Asian Americans throughout the county. It has denounced derogatory and offensive comments against China and Chinese culture, made by a physician during recent racist and xenophobic presentations in Westchester County.

The Croton Board and the Diversity and Inclusion Committee jointly condemn any type of assault or prejudice in the strongest possible terms, and voice their support for our neighbors of Asian heritage, who deserve the same respect as do all members of our community.

Now is the time to come together as a community, to reach out to assist our neighbors and to connect in ways that value the individual differences that make Croton-on-Hudson unique. Through compassion and empathy, as well as the continued sharing of resources between community members, we show our true spirit of inclusiveness.

For more information about human rights law protections locally, and the work of the Human Rights Commission of Westchester County, please visit <https://humanrights.westchestergov.com/>. If you have been subject to discrimination, bias, or hate, or are aware of any instance of prejudice, contact humanrights@westchestergov.com or (914) 995-7710 to file a complaint. To learn more about Asian/Asian American advocacy efforts in Westchester, visit the Organization of Chinese Americans Westchester and Hudson Valley website: www.oca-whv.org.

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee was created by a Resolution of the Village Board on November 5, 2018. The Committee was created to develop and implement programs designed to create and support a spirit of diversity and inclusion for all who live, work in, and visit Croton-in-Hudson. Additionally, the Committee's mission is to promote the diversity goals of the Village – to understand and respond to the needs of an increasingly diverse community – and to encourage respect and tolerance for those individual differences that enrich our community.

Sincerely,

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee and The Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson