



Town of Orono

March 24, 2021

The Orono Town Council Condemns Anti-Asian Violence

We stand in solidarity with community members who condemn the escalating violence and harassment directed at Asians, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders, and remain committed to antiracist action. The killing of eight people in Atlanta, Georgia, six of whom were Asian American women, and the harassment of an Asian woman and her children in Portland, Maine highlight the anti-Asian violence and harassment that appears to have grown during the pandemic. Violence and harassment motivated by racism and bigotry is nothing new, sadly; it is simply more widely reported as the systems and sentiments that cause them to occur are becoming a larger part of the cultural conversation in this era of American history.

The impact of these incidents permeates our community, leaving sadness, outrage, and fear in its wake. The Town of Orono strives to be a welcoming, diverse community where everyone has the right to expect that they can live their lives in the open—without fear of violence or other forms of reprisal — regardless of the color of their skin, religion they practice, how they express their gender, their sexual orientation, the nation from which they hail, disability, or their socioeconomic status.

We condemn hate, violence, and threats aimed at others, particularly those that are based upon some of the very attributes that define the character of our community. But a statement alone, no matter how unequivocal, cannot heal these wounds nor prevent them from occurring.

It is the responsibility of each and every one of us to condemn not only violence after the fact, but also to work to defeat the systems that allow the violence to perpetuate. The Orono Town Council is committed to building an environment where hate and bias have no home, and invite all members of our community to work with us towards this goal.