



## **FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER**

Welcome to the February 2021 issue of the Huntington Anti-Bias Taskforce (HABTF) Newsletter. The HABTF is a non-partisan group formed by the Town of Huntington in conjunction with the Suffolk County Anti-Bias Task Force. It is made up of concerned clergy, community representatives and lay persons who work together to address the issue of intolerance, prejudice, discrimination and racism in any segment of our Town.

We've been meeting monthly since January 2019 and have accomplished quite a lot. Check out some of our projects below. For more information about HABTF, click [www.huntingtonny.gov/abtf](http://www.huntingtonny.gov/abtf)

If you have any comments or suggestions, e-mail Carmen Kasper, Director of Human Services, at [ckasper@huntingtonny.gov](mailto:ckasper@huntingtonny.gov)



[Click here to read HABTF Nov 2020 Newsletter](#)  
[Click here to read HABTF Sept 2020 Newsletter](#)  
[Click here to read HABTF June 2020 Newsletter](#)

### **2nd Precinct SCPD Report**

By Inspector William Scrima



In the months of October, November and December 2020, there were four significant incidents in The Second Precinct that were reported to have elements of bias:

- On October 22, a swastika was discovered carved into wood along a walking trail near Caravan Park in E. Northport. SCPD Hate Crimes Unit is investigating.
- On November 18, an advertisement for Patriot Front, a white supremacist group, was discovered on public property near the corner of Pulaski Rd and Broadway in Greenlawn. The incident is being investigated.
- On November 23, an e-mail containing antisemitic material was received by hundreds of people, including the CEO of The Suffolk Y Jewish Community Center 74 Hauppauge Rd Commack. SCPD Hate Crimes Unit is investigating.
- On November 27, a snapchat message threatening the Black Lives Matter movement and the Jewish community was sent to an employee of Dick's Sporting Goods 870 Walt Whitman Rd Melville. The person who sent the message was located and transported to Stony Brook Hospital for psychological evaluation.

Recently, I have received some questions about the role of police unions and how they relate to the police department.

Police unions in the United States and here on Long Island include a variety of organizations. They engage in labor negotiations and collective bargaining on behalf of their members. The role police unions play is similar to the role of all other labor unions. They exist to advocate for their membership and, in fact, are legally responsible for advocating for their members in all situations.

The business of day-to-day management, policy, and police-community relations, however, is conducted by those that manage police departments: the police commissioners and police chiefs. While both police managers and police union leaders want to work together to make their community a safer place to live, police managers answer to the public at large, while the unions answer to their membership.

The Suffolk County Police Department has 3 unions representing sworn members of the department: the Police Benevolent Association represents police officers; the Superior Officers Association represents police supervisors; and the Suffolk Detectives Association represents detectives.

For more information, please visit the department Website at [www.suffolkpd.org](http://www.suffolkpd.org).

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## Huntington Unity Video

By Eve Krief



The Huntington Anti-Bias Task Force will be creating a video with statements from residents to help spread a message of unity and hope to the Town of Huntington. We have been living through historic times over the past year as we have had to confront the challenges of a pandemic, a call for racial justice and disquieting political divisiveness. Participants in the video will include religious leaders, educators, police and firefighters, politicians from both major political parties and others

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## Social Justice Ambassador Program

By Veronique Bailey



The Huntington Anti-Bias Task Force is providing a program focused on social justice education. The Social Justice Ambassador Program aims to assess some of the ways societal structures perpetuate privilege and oppression through institutions and individuals. The format of the program will be monthly virtual meetings and consist of group discussions, interactive activities, presentations, and reflections. At the end of the program, ambassadors will be required to present their capstone projects and what they have learned from the Social Justice Ambassador program. This program invites students from different backgrounds and experiences to come together to explore issues of social justice. Students will participate in the 5 month program, with sessions facilitated by Veronique Bailey, CEO of See Exceptional Expectation, a social justice, empowerment, and educational consultation corporation.

Overview:

The Social Justice Ambassador Program aims to unite our students, and empower them with the tools and knowledge they need to act as ambassadors of justice. During each of the four sessions, students from all Town of Huntington school districts are invited to engage in a series of workshops that challenge them to explore the topic of bias, identify resources and strategies to combat bias, and work collaboratively to develop tangible projects that enable them to share their knowledge with their school and community. During the program, open discussion and dialogue are encouraged, and the students are able to learn, not only from the presenters, but also from their peers from other towns and school districts.

Click here to [read more > >](#)

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## HABTF Facebook Page

By David Pinkowitz

Huntington Anti-Bias Task Force (HABTF) is pleased to announce that it now has a Facebook page. You can check it out at [www.facebook.com/HuntingtonABTF](http://www.facebook.com/HuntingtonABTF)



HABTF will make posts periodically to its Facebook page on subjects relevant to its mission to educate on the subjects of bias, discrimination and intolerance. Let us know what you think of our new Facebook page and please send us your suggestions.

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## Suffolk County 311 Non-Emergency Hotline

By David Pinkowitz

It is well documented that the SCPD receives many phone calls to the 911 Emergency Hotline that are more appropriate for other county departments to deal with. For this reason, Suffolk County has developed a **311 Non-Emergency Hotline**. It is a one-stop clearinghouse for all Suffolk County services. Phone operators direct the caller to the most appropriate services after a short conversation.



The list of Suffolk County services available from the 311 Non-Emergency Hotline includes food assistance, low income resources, unemployment relief, unlawful evictions, covid-19 testing and the like.

For more information about the Suffolk County 311 Non-Emergency Hotline, see [https://bit.ly/SC\\_311-Hotline\\_Flyer](https://bit.ly/SC_311-Hotline_Flyer) and [https://bit.ly/SC\\_311\\_Hotline-3](https://bit.ly/SC_311_Hotline-3)

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