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Civil Rights Commission/Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

1 message

Marilyn Park <marilynhpark@gmail.com>
To: selectmen@natickma.org

Tue, Jun 30, 2020 at 9:45 PM

My name is Dr. Marilyn Park and I am a Natick resident. I proudly serve as a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) as a commissioned officer. I work as a clinical psychologist serving in the largest mental health provider for Black and Brown folks and the underserved population: the federal prison system. I also facilitate a year-round didactic on cultural humility, racial identity development and anti-racist practices for our psychology interns.

As a Person of Color (Asian American) in our Natick community, I greatly appreciate the Board of Selectmen, Natick Police Department, and Dr. Nolin's participation in the panel on racial justice that occurred earlier this month. It is a good start to a much needed conversation that needs to be continued if Natick wants to develop into an anti-racist community that is committed to equity. My multiracial children and myself have experienced racism in various levels in Natick, as this is pervasive in any town. However, I believe Natick can rise to challenges and I am encouraged to see numerous community members wanting a change towards racial justice.

With the anti-racism work that I do in my profession and personal spheres of influence, I believe equity work requires commitment and prioritization. A Civil Rights Commission that can dedicate time to assess and address the needs of various factors of our town is crucial for the "needle to move." I urge you to establish such a Commission, and prioritize representation from the various marginalized groups that reflect our town. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marilyn Park