



Township of East Brunswick

Brad J. Cohen
Mayor

Mayor's Statement regarding the recent rise in anti-Asian bias crimes

Martin Luther King once said that, *'We will remember not the words of our enemies, but only the silence of our friends'*. With that in mind, I will not remain silent as members of our Asian community remain the target of bias and hate crimes. While I have not seen any issues here in East Brunswick, the national and state news is filled with such events, capped by the violent shooting in Atlanta yesterday.

We have worked very hard here in East Brunswick to establish and promote a tolerant and diverse community. Our diversity is a strength and has been a big selling point when families choose East Brunswick as the community to call their home. Like a good marriage, we need to work on keeping it that way.

As hard as we try, we cannot ignore the world around us and we cannot fall victim to weakness. Please do not hesitate to report any incident of hate or bias crimes, comments or actions to our East Brunswick Police Department at 732-390-6900 or the confidential tip line **732-4EBTIPS or tips@ebpd.net**. Any such incidents in the schools should be reported to the administration office in those schools.

There is the real life story of an American officer that was captured by the German Army during WWII. He was asked to identify the one Jewish soldier in his squad so that this soldier could be separated and tortured. The officer refused, saying that, "today we are all Jewish". This act of heroism saved the young Jewish soldier and his bravery saved his squad. Today – we are all Asian!

Brad J Cohen, Mayor