

We of the Jewish Community of Amherst's Tzedek Racial Justice Initiative acknowledge, appreciate and support the tireless volunteer efforts of the Racial Equity Amherst Task Force in articulating demands and proposals to the Town of Amherst to address racial equity and better serve Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and all members of the Amherst community. They and Defund413, in coalition, served the whole community in moving racial equity and social justice from statements to action.

We acknowledge, appreciate and support the efforts of Amherst Town Manager Paul Bockelman in listening, responding, and incorporating many of these and other voices from the community, into his revised proposal to create the "Amherst Community Safety Working Group".

Specifically we want to highlight our support for:

- The weaving of a racial equity and social justice lens into all town policies.
- The formation of a working group with majority BIPOC membership, to explore both public safety alternatives to aspects of policing and the authorization of a community civilian police review and oversight board. We will hold the Town to account for *measurable outcomes in both of these areas in the near future.*
- The final decision to limit existing public safety professionals, including the police chief, to roles as a resource to this group if asked, but explicitly, *not as members of the working group, to insure that there are not barriers to any community resident's expression of their lived experience.*
- Continued efforts to center the voices, experiences and expertise of BIPOC members of the community, most affected by these policies, to help make Amherst more inclusive and safe for all residents; and to promote continued awareness of these issues among those Amherst residents, historically less affected by racially biased law enforcement.

As our community at large seeks to learn about and work in coalition for racial equity in our town and beyond, we acknowledge, appreciate and support the efforts of Amherst Media in its coverage of Town Council meetings, its series "Critical Conversations" and "Difficult Dialogues", and others, that include conversations about reparations, racial equity and so much more. This is a rich, free, educational resource for our community, especially important in the present moment, which we hope is one of transformational anti-racism reckoning.