**Racial Equity Committee Meeting**

February 12, 2020

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Amityville Community Resource Center

Room 207

* **Introductions and Committee Goals**
	+ Welcome to our first meeting!
* **What is the definition of homelessness?**
	+ Definition changes according to programs, times, cultural implications, etc.
* **People cluster where they feel comfortable**
	+ Homeowner fears – who is paying?
* **Housing plays a big role in recovery**
	+ The well-being of individuals
	+ It is difficult to obtain housing
* **How do you “humanize” Section 8 vouchers?**
	+ How do you present this without breaking confidentiality?
* **What is missing?**
	+ There is a lack of education, communication
	+ Need to use the proper language (Not referring to “the people” or the “programs”)
* **Institutional/ Structural Racism**
	+ Stigma towards housing programs – housing discrimination
	+ Disproportionally affects African Americans in Long Island
	+ Credit – People of color statistically have lower income and credit scores
	+ Judgements before meeting clients
	+ There are too many vacant units that people qualify for but get denied
		- Who is willing to take vouchers?
* **Quality of life issue**
	+ Mind is in crisis mode
	+ Need to advocate for people experiencing homelessness
* **Next Steps:**
	+ Need more educational items/trainings for local brokers
	+ Identify real estate laws
	+ ***\*\*\*\*TBD next meeting date***