**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***