

## PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:** 04/02/2021

## M-NCPPC Denounces Increase in Anti-Asian Racism Incidents

Stands in solidarity with Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities

**RIVERDALE, MD** – <u>The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission</u> (M-NCPPC) strongly denounces the recent Atlanta shooting tragedy and the ever-growing increase in incidents related to anti-Asian racism in our country. We stand in solidarity with our Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) coworkers, friends, and families, our Montgomery County and Prince George's County communities, and our nation in condemning these violent attacks.

These horrific acts of violence that left Asian American families in Atlanta grieving for the loss of their loved ones serves as a painful reminder of the hatred, discrimination, and racist attacks that continue to plague our communities of color. The continued proliferation of misinformation, coupled with the lack of understanding of the diverse cultures that comprise our world, only serves to hold us back and leave many of us living in fear. We steadfastly oppose violence, racism, and discrimination in any form, including the low-grade, but high-impact discrimination which immigrant communities have endured for years. We stand united and determined to support our most vulnerable communities and celebrate the contributions of the AAPI community to the history, culture and achievements of our country and our bi-county region.

M-NCPPC remains firmly committed to providing safe spaces for ALL to thrive. We call on all to join us in breaking down these walls of fear and actively embracing diversity. We will continue to provide programming that promotes greater understanding and welcomes all ages, sizes, cultural and religious differences, opinions, orientation, and abilities. We are committed to practices, policies, and expectations that promote inclusion and protect the freedoms of all within our agency and our community.

Through courage, collaboration, compassion and the earnest pursuit of understanding, our communities will thrive and grow toward an even better tomorrow for future generations. WE, The Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission, remain COMMITTED to embracing and celebrating diversity and DENOUNCING disrespect, discrimination, degradation, disenfranchisement, and certainly violence against ANY segment of our society.

## About The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

<u>The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)</u> is a bi-county agency empowered by the State of Maryland in 1927 to acquire, develop, maintain, and administer a regional system of parks within Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, and to provide land use planning for

the physical development of Prince George's and Montgomery Counties. In addition, the agency gained responsibility for the public recreation program in Prince George's County in 1970.

The governing body of M-NCPPC consists of 10 members, five appointed by Montgomery County and five by Prince George's County. The commission coordinates and acts on matters of interest to both counties, and meets at least once a month. The members of the commission from each county serve on separate county planning boards to facilitate, review, and administer the matters affecting their respective counties.

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