

**From:** Racial Equity Grover [racialequitywg@gmail.com](mailto:racialequitywg@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Message from the WG Racial and Social Equity Committee regarding the hateful graffiti found on Washington Grove Lane

**Date:** February 25, 2021 at 9:10 PM

**To:** John Compton [johncompton@me.com](mailto:johncompton@me.com), Darrell Anderson [Deanderson47@verizon.net](mailto:Deanderson47@verizon.net), Charlie Challstrom [cnacha4498@gmail.com](mailto:cnacha4498@gmail.com), dcossou@kictele.com, CouncilorMaridaHines@gmail.com, PATRICE KLEIN [patriceklein@hotmail.com](mailto:patriceklein@hotmail.com), Gray Yachup [gyachup@gmail.com](mailto:gyachup@gmail.com)

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Dear John, Darrell, Charlie, Dave, Marida, Pat, and Gray,

The Washington Grove Racial and Social Equity Committee (members of the leadership team copied here) is aware that the public sidewalk on Washington Grove Lane was recently defaced with graffiti of a racial slur. We further understand that the Boundary Committee and others have taken steps to have it removed. We appreciate the attention given to this incident.

In addition to the steps already taken, our Committee strongly urges you to use this opportunity to make clear the Town's position on attacks of this type and to provide guidance and support to town residents.

Defacing public property with a racial slur is not only a hateful act, perhaps attacking one or more of our neighbors as well as the community as a whole. It is also a potential hate crime under Maryland law. We urge you to report this incident to the police if you have not done so already, so that it can be properly investigated and recorded. (Please see these helpful resources from the Montgomery County Police [HERE](#) and the Maryland Attorney General's Office [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).)

We also urge you to make a statement

- Acknowledging the incident, specifying that it is a potential hate crime
- Making clear that there is no place for such hateful acts in Washington Grove
- Expressing the seriousness with which the incident has been taken by the Town
- Making clear that it is the Town's policy to report such incidents to the police (so that they can be investigated and recorded) and that the Town will remove hate graffiti without delay, following consultation with the police
- Explaining what residents can/should do in response to any future incidents of this type -- i.e. report them to the police, the Town security person, and/or the Maryland hate crime hotline. Including all three will ensure that the report makes it to the police, even if someone is reluctant to report it to the police directly.
- Care should be taken not to share hateful images broadly.

It would be helpful to include in this statement links to the resources that we shared above, as well as the pertinent contact information.

Finally, we urge you to put the statement or similar guidance on the Town's website and in the Town Bulletin.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter. This set of initial steps is crucial to express the seriousness of the incident and the solidarity of the Town with anyone who may have been the intended victim(s) of this hateful act and potential hate crime.

We would be happy to discuss this further with you and provide further input as you continue to address this serious incident.

Sincerely,

*The Washington Grove Racial and Social Equity Committee*

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Washington Grove Racial Equity Committee | <https://linktr.ee/RacialEquityGrover>

