The Town of Barrington is deeply troubled by the racial overtones of a recent physical altercation on Rumstick Drive. This type of behavior is abhorrent and should not be tolerated anywhere. It does not reflect who we are as a community and it is not who we aspire to be.

Following a thorough review, the Barrington Police Department charged an individual with simple assault and disorderly conduct. In addition, prior to this morning’s arraignment in the District Court on those charges, the Town sought the advice of the R.I. Attorney General’s Office as to whether a hate crime charge was warranted in this instance. The Attorney General’s Office determined that the additional charge was not appropriate in this case. The criminal charges will be adjudicated in District Court and it should be noted that the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

The Town of Barrington extends its support to the victims in this case and stands with all those who condemn discrimination in any form. We want to make it crystal clear to all residents and visitors alike that behavior endangering the safety of anyone, which interferes in the quiet enjoyment of their home and property or which impacts basic civil rights will not be tolerated in any instance.

Michael Carroll
President, Barrington Town Council

James J. Cunha
Barrington Town Manager