

## **HATE CRIMES PANEL: (7:30 – 9:00)**

Community representatives including:

- Donivan Barton – Moderator, MS54
- Gale Brewer – Manhattan Borough President
- Mark Levine – District 7 City Council Member
- Dr. Frank Pezzella – Associate Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- Dr. Sanayi Canton – Canton, President, Community Education Council District 5
- Rabbi Jeremy Kalmonofsky – Faith Leader – Congregation Ansche Chesed
- Danielle Zipkin – Faculty – MS54
- Representatives from the 20th and 24th precincts
- Additional faith leaders and community advocates
  - Danny Salim - Arab-American Family Support Center
  - Daniel Coles – Senior Program Manager, Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility

## **Key Themes and Discussions Points at Hate Crime Panel**

Schools are safe havens for communities and must be free from discrimination and intolerance of any kind. The recent anti-Semitic events that have taken place across our city and nearby are deeply troubling and will not be tolerated. We must ensure that our schools remain safe, inclusive and nurturing spaces for all students, staff and families. It is our job as educators to create thoughtful, productive citizens who understand the value of living in a diverse and accepting society. (From Department of Education – Chancellor Richard A Carranza)

- What is hate and does the work you do have an impact on hate crimes?
  - Hate begins with language and ideas and evolves into action
  - It's a human rights issue and starts with prevention
  - Strive to create a sense of belonging and community; understand each other's story
  - Understanding how hate shows up: through a lack of acknowledgement and initiated by pain. Hate is taught and learned and typically starts at home.
  - There have been 300 hate crimes in NYC based on race, religion, etc. Over half of the crime was targeted at Jews. The role that we all have includes having schools along with teachers to help to overcome the ignorance. Our children must know the history of genocide.
  - It's a crime targeted to a specific group. Hate crime is up across the entire country.
  - Hate crime starts with words and slurs and not with violence. Anger + fear = HATE. Need to work on muting anger and fear to prevent hate
- What is the difference between hate and bias?
  - Hate and bias alone respectively not a crime. Hate = emotion and bias = prejudicial information against an individual.

- What is the intersection between hate, school and educators?
  - We must look at our humanity. How are we teaching our children to find the common thing versus looking for differences? As educators, we must teach our children that we are stronger together as a group than as individuals. We must teach love and hate starts with fear. Take ownership of our words starting at home.
  - You can be biased and not hate, but if you hate then you are most likely biased. Take the patterns and trends to direct policies and drive changes.
  - We are failing to adequately teach about background and diversity in the schools. Without the education and learning about the genocides, we will not be able to understand the root of hate. Need to hold schools accountable to start teaching as early as elementary school about the history of genocide.
  - Hatred means that we fail to recognize someone, and we are telling them they don't count.
  - Hatred is not new and has been going on for a long time: slavery, the Holocaust, lynchings, etc. Hate crimes have only been reported since the 1990s. In the last 30 years, we have a massively under reported problem.
  - Its easier to hate than to listen and learn from others.
  - Power is the root of hate and power is being used to ignore certain social groups.
  - As an American, hate is the foundation of how America was built. One of the reason that hate crimes are under reported is that the groups that are involved do not recognize it as a hate crime.
  - Student comment: its sad that we must have a panel at school to discuss hate crimes.
  - Student comment: the stereotypes are getting pushed through your unconscious mind.
  - Student comment: hate is spreading through the community and the world starting with people first hating themselves and our society telling us it's ok to hate others. Hate crimes get normalized because we are conditioned to think that hating yourself is ok and then hating each other...it's an acceptable message and normalized in our society.
  
- How do we educate young people on this topic? Teaching children about different groups and the history of these groups helps begin to recognize every group's contribution and will help reduce the hatred.
  - Promoting a culture of diversity and inclusion is the starting point for every school's curriculum.
  - We can't talk about identity as singular. The language follows the intention and we need to talk about intentions.
  - It's beyond textbooks and we need to connect and talk to the people who have experienced the Holocaust, civil rights movement, Stonewall, the Aids epidemic, etc.
  - We need to take ownership of the information that is coming to us and to educate young people so they don't make the wrong assumptions.
  - Our society prioritizes "white supremacy" and we need recognize and appreciate other cultural differences. Its not just a person of color's problem.
  - We need to shift the curriculum to include how to value and celebrate our differences.

- What programs and resources are available?
  - Educators are working with different groups like Korean society to gain access to different resources and give students access to this information.
  - Talk to each other and be actively have conversations with your children and neighbors.
  - Don't wait. You don't need to be in an auditorium with 100 people. You don't need to have the education, the progressive pedagogy, or a book; these are your neighbors!! You don't need step by step instructions on how to be human! Think about ways that you can engage with the people who aren't comfortable coming to a HATE CRIME panel with Gale Brewer and members of the NYPD. That can be intimidating. Host smaller dinners, playdates in the park, and have a conversation! Think about what you are experiencing and what they are experiencing and create unity, healing and love. THAT is how we make a difference.