

CDICR response to public attacks on Raul Fernandez, DRAFT, for 2/10/2021 meeting

There are few among us (we would hope none) who condone the actions that we saw on full display at our nation's Capitol on 1/6/2021. Subsequently, there have been words of condemnation of the mayhem that ensued, uttered from many quarters, including by our own Select Board members. The subsequent vilification of Select Board member Raul Fernandez for the words he spoke at the 1/12/2021 Select Board meeting has reached a new level of animosity and comes from members of our own police force. Purporting to call out divisive speech, they, with their remarks, have instead espoused "hateful, divisive, insidious rhetoric", to use their own words. They have effectively served to sever lines of communication when the need to work together to heal the rifts in our communities has never been greater. In addition, the initial lack of support from other members of the Select Board for their colleague and their subsequent half-hearted support is stunning. Their silence on the inflammatory speech by members of our police department at the 1/19 Select Board meeting makes their response hollow and essentially meaningless. This entire episode further erodes community trust. We, as members of the Commission for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Relations, want to make clear that we stand in full support of Dr. Fernandez.

The response of Acting Chief Mark Morgan, although offering investigative support to SB member Fernandez, has also made no mention of the provocative statements and allegations made by his own police officers. Chief Morgan needs to disavow such false and slanderous comments. If he does not, we all need to recognize that Brookline has fallen prey to the same dangerous political trends we have seen around the nation.