



Michael W. Morrissey
Norfolk District Attorney

PRESS RELEASE FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

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*Pending charges represent accusations:
all defendants are presumed innocent unless
and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable
doubt under the United States Constitution.*

DA Morrissey provides Civil Rights Investigation Training

Police investigators and school officials from across Norfolk County joined District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey for a full-day of training on responding to racial and civil rights incidents in their communities on April 27, 2023.

“When I sent the invitations for this event, I did not know that the Boston Globe and other outlets would be writing stories about the national jump in civil rights violations, hate crimes, and incidents of bias a week later – but they did,” District Attorney Morrissey said in his welcome remarks.

“Whatever the cause of the increase, it is the people in this room who will be called upon to deal with the incidents and manage the fallout,” District Attorney Morrissey said. “My personal message to you is that you don’t have to do this alone, and I suggest it is better if you do not – for all involved.”

The program, held in conference space donated by the Bank of Canton at its headquarters, was organized and co-hosted by District Attorney Morrissey’s Chief of Civil Rights Prosecution, Assistant District Attorney David Omiunu, and his Communications Director, David Traub.

Anti-Defamation League Deputy Regional Director Peggy Shukur opened the program with an overview of the bias event data collected by the ADL locally and nationally. Philip Chong, the CEO of Quincy Asian Resources, Inc., humanized the impact that bias incidents have on targeted populations and discussed how communication with investigators can help calm community fear.

ADA David Omiunu outlined the resources and assistance that the Norfolk District Attorney’s Office makes available to support police, schools, and communities. David Traub addressed how to navigate the media attention that often accompanies bias incidents to support the targeted community without prejudicing the investigation.

Retired Holliston Police Chief John Moore, who is also an attorney and now works with the Commonwealth Police Legacy training organization, presented the entirety of the afternoon session.

“We invited school superintendents to send staff because a good number of bias incidents nationally occur in school settings,” District Attorney Morrissey said. “Whether or not they rise to the level of being criminal, many of the same principles of investigating and supporting communities will apply to the work that educators will need to do.”

