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Last summer, the mayor of Medford declared racism a public health emergency in our city and enjoined us all to set out to build an antiracist city. Part of this, surely, is protecting and defending anyone targeted by racist behaviors, be they verbal or physical assaults--in person or online.

At Safe Medford, we have been made aware of the physical attack on a resident due to her ethnicity [see April 17, 2021 [Boston Globe article by Shirley Leung](#), “Elderly Asian Americans are living in fear as assaults, confrontations soar.”], and the online targeting by Medford blogger Bill Giglio of a member of the Medford Human Rights Commission--another person of color—for speaking her truth. This online harassment and character assassination by Giglio has extended to elected officials, as well as others who have spoken out about the costs of white supremacy in our city.

This is simply not okay. Racism and misogyny in speech and deed make Medford an unsafe city. Each and every resident of Medford should be able to speak their mind **respectfully** without fear of being viciously attacked with abusive language and incendiary verbiage by those who disagree with them.

We stand in full support and solidarity with those who have been targeted and denounce these hateful, hurtful and divisive behaviors.

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