



Belmont Human Rights Commission Statement in Remembrance of Henry Tapia

January 19th marks the one year anniversary of the racist murder of Henry Tapia. Mr. Tapia was an Afro-Dominican member of the Belmont community. As a community, we must never forget his life was lost to racism here in Belmont and that such violence and hatred can and does exist within our community. We must also acknowledge how our community has come together to support Mr. Tapia's family and to condemn racist violence. We must also remember that the work to eradicate racist violence must persist in order to have a lasting impact. Too often the lives of Black and Brown men are lost to senseless racist violence. The Belmont Human Rights Commission exhorts members of our community to join organizations at the national, state, and local level to continue to confront and eliminate racism.

Among local organizations engaging in anti-racist actions are [Belmont Against Racism \(BAR\)](#), [Communities Organized for Solidarity \(COS\) New England](#), and the [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People \(NAACP\) Boston](#). On 01/22/2022 COS New England is organizing a vigil and community walk to mark the anniversary of Mr. Tapia's murder. More details will be offered in their [social media](#) portals. The Belmont Human Rights Commission and BAR are also co-sponsoring Belmont's 28th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Virtual Community Breakfast on Monday, January 17th, 2022 at 9:00 am which is free to the public. The guest speaker is Rahsaan Hall who is the director of the Racial Justice Program for the American Civil Liberties Union of MA. This year's topic, "The Arc and the Pendulum: The Long Journey Toward Racial Justice" is especially relevant to anti-racism. The eventbrite registration is at: [Bit.ly/MLKBelmont2022](https://bit.ly/MLKBelmont2022).

The Belmont Human Rights Commission is dedicated to fighting discrimination in all forms and increasing visibility and awareness of issues regarding diversity and discrimination in our community. If you have experienced discrimination in Belmont, please contact us at belmont.hrc@gmail.com or call 617-993-2795.

