



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ERASE RACISM CALLS ON BROOKHAVEN FIRE DEPARTMENT TO CURE ITS CULTURE OF THE RACISM PRESENTED BY THE DISPLAY OF A CONFEDERATE FLAG ON ONE OF ITS FIRETRUCKS

Syosset, NY – September 1, 2020 – ERASE Racism President Elaine Gross issued the following statement concerning the confederate flag that was displayed on a firetruck of the Brookhaven Fire Department:

In apologizing for the recent display of a confederate flag on one of the Brookhaven Fire Department's firetrucks, Chief Peter Di Pinto Jr stated, "Because this is a personnel matter and currently under investigation, we cannot give out any further details." The displaying of a confederate flag on a public vehicle purchased by taxpayers and operated at their expense at a public event is not a personnel matter. It is an outrageous act of racism! It is an official statement by a firefighter of that firefighter's perception of the values of the Department. The Brookhaven Fire Department needs to do far more than hide behind a brief written apology. The Department's Commissioners need to speak out. The Department needs to complete its investigation rapidly; there is not that much to examine. And the Department needs to announce publicly what steps it is taking to cure the culture that permitted this reprehensible act."

To speak with Elaine Gross, contact Henry Miller at hmillier@highimpactpartnering.com or 917-921-8034.

ERASE Racism is a New York-based regional civil rights organization that exposes and addresses the devastating impact of historical and ongoing structural racism, particularly in public school education and housing. It does so through research, policy advocacy, legal action, and educating and mobilizing the public – driving policy change at local, regional and statewide levels and through national coalitions. It has been recognized locally and nationally for its cutting-edge work.