

## **Brockton Area Branch NAACP - Annual Report 2020**

### **Legal Redress Committee**

*Submitted by Tiffanie C. Ellis-Niles, Chair*

*Committee Members: Kerima Lewis and Regina Hunter*

The committee continues to receive inquiries from individuals looking for legal representation or guidance for their grievances. On average, we have received 1-3 inquiries a month. The requests come through the NAACP website and the President forwards the request to the committee. Depending on the specifics of the matter, we have referred the individuals to the Mass Bar, Lawyers for Civil Rights, MCAD or the private bar. A notification is sent to acknowledge receipt of the inquiry and every attempt is made to respond to the individuals within 48 hours of receiving the request. Most of the follow-up is done via telephone call. We also email to follow-up in certain cases when necessary. If there is a matter that can be addressed immediately, or we find it requires immediate attention to remedy the situation we consult with the President who in turn may submit a correspondence on behalf of the individual. We asked that each person who speaks with complete an intake form so that we can keep track of those we have spoken to and in some cases so that we can follow-up if follow-up is necessary.

In July, the Legal Redress Committee held its first “Know Your Rights Forum” virtually, where we discussed Landlord and tenant issues. There were 3 panelists from the Brockton Court Housing Division, Judge Sherring, Clerk Magistrate Mathis and Chief housing specialist Andrade. The program was broadcast live on the NAACP Facebook page and received a lot of positive feedback. The committee is hoping to partner with Legal Services in the region to bring more legal educational forums to our members and community during the upcoming year.

The committee is looking to grow its membership and continues to welcome new members to join the committee.