

Press



Release

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For Immediate Release

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New City, NY (March 31, 2023)

Statement By Rockland County Legislature Vice Chairwoman Aney Paul On Swastikas At Local High School

“I am angered and disappointed to learn that one or more people have taken it upon themselves to spread not only hate but fear in one of the places where all youth should feel safe, their school. Imagine how you would feel if you were Jewish and had to return to the school, maybe even the classroom where these anti-Semitic symbols of hate were found.

Last evening, myself and a group of some 50 people gathered to discuss this very issue - community safety and hate crimes – to build ties and bridges between different groups so that collectively, our Rockland County community sends a clear message that this sort of behavior is not accepted.

The law enforcement officers who attended were extremely clear in what the immediate reaction should be: If you see or experience, or believe you’ve seen or experienced, a hate or bias crime or incident, report it to the local police department. The only way an investigation can be done is if the police are made aware of what has happened.

Also at the gathering, an attendee reported that two Orthodox Jews were shopping at a grocery store when a woman made an angry gesture. They asked if anything was wrong and it was reported that this woman told them they didn’t belong there, they belonged in Monsey. This reportedly happened just yesterday.

We are better than this and thankfully, these kinds of incidents are few in Rockland County. While demoralizing, I am hopeful the culprit or culprits will be identified and through education, can learn why this action was so terribly wrong. I believe the only way we will see a turnaround in the number of hate incidents and crimes across the nation is through education.”

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