



WESTPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Foti Koskinas
Chief of Police

Press Release

Westport Police and First Selectman Respond to Disturbing Flyers

The Westport Police Department and First Selectman today issued the following statement concerning flyers that were found outside Westport homes:

Once again, Westport residents have found flyers with disturbing messages in their driveways, in this case with neo-Nazi and white supremacist content. This latest incident comes almost two years to the day after disturbing flyers appeared in other parts of Town.

The Westport Police Department is working with area police departments in an attempt to identify the source of the latest disturbing and inflammatory messages. We encourage anyone with information or questions to contact the Westport Detective Bureau at 203-341-6080.

The Town is also working with the Connecticut region Anti-Defamation League to identify possible sources, but also to seek ways to appropriately combat this type of threatening activity.

Mr. Marpe stated, "I am concerned and angry that once again statements like this have found their way to Westport homes. As I said two years ago, this kind of ethnic ugliness has no place anywhere, and certainly not in Westport. I have always been proud to speak of Westport as an open and welcoming community. I continue to believe that the vast majority of Westporters practice tolerance, inclusion and

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everyday civil behavior. Unfortunately, the last few years and months have reminded us that our nation still needs to deal with some serious societal and behavioral issues. We are reminded that Westport is not necessarily immune from these issues.”

“Westport must not tolerate the threatening, bullying and hateful messages that are at the heart of these flyers. We must reinforce our commitment to civil discourse and to the tolerance for residents of all backgrounds. Regardless of the reasons behind these intolerant statements, we must create a political and social climate that rejects these kinds of statements out of hand and allows all opinions to be heard in an open and non-threatening manner.“

“I have asked that TEAM Westport work with the Interfaith Clergy and other appropriate Town agencies and civic groups to lead our community's response to these outrageous statements and, as importantly, how to deal with the behaviors and beliefs that underpin them.”

Chief Foti Koskinas added, “Not only do we want to keep our community safe, but we strive to also give peace of mind. When you combine the content of the flyer and the nature in which this was done, we recognize the concern and alarm it may cause. We are working diligently to determine who is responsible, and look further into the motive.”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lieutenant David Farrell

05.08.2017