



WESTPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Westport, Connecticut 06880-4385

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Fotios Koskinas
Chief of Police

Press Release

During the overnight hours of August 23 to August 24, the Unitarian Church in Westport's "Black Lives Matter" banner, which was hanging on private property, was cut off and ripped from its metal frame.

First Selectman Jim Marpe stated, "Given the current climate in this country and in the State of Connecticut, the Administration of the Town of Westport and the Westport Police Department will not stand for this behavior. We will dedicate our resources to identifying the person or persons responsible for this vandalism. We urge our community to be respectful of the opinions of others and their right to express them, even if they may differ from their own. Hatred and bigotry are not welcome here."

Chief of Police Foti Koskinas mirrored the expressions of First Selectman Marpe, "We support and respect the Unitarian Church, its members and their message of inclusiveness, equality and tolerance. The police department is working with the church administration to prevent further incidents."

The Connecticut Regional Office of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) stated that it will work with the community to address the situation; offering its support and resources to the town, police department and the Unitarian Church.

Anyone with information regarding the identity of the person(s) responsible is asked to contact the Westport Police Department Detective Bureau at (203) 341-6080.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 08.25.2017

Lieutenant Jillian Cabana

203 341-6009