

Sunday, August 27, 2017
Statement on Hateful Vandalism at AITE

On behalf of the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien and its Jewish Community Relations Council, we were deeply disturbed to learn that hateful graffiti, including Swastikas, "KKK," profanity, and the number 666 – representing the devil – were discovered defacing the Academy of Information Technology and Engineering (AITE) magnet school on Saturday.

There have also been reports of at least two individuals called by anti-Semitic slurs when exiting local synagogues in the last two weeks.

We cannot and will not tolerate hate in our community. We call on all faith leaders to come together to speak out against hate. These hateful and disturbing acts are not just a Jewish problem but one affecting all minorities.

UJF is working with police and the Anti-Defamation League to address these manifestations of hate. We have been reassured by the police department that full attention will be given to this matter. As of this morning, the hateful images have been removed.

In July, when the Rich Forum was defaced with a swastika, the JCRC circulated a petition among community leaders throughout Stamford that clearly stated that the Stamford community has no tolerance for hate or anti-Semitism. The statement received over 30 signatures that represented our elected officials, churches, mosques, synagogues and community organizations. We call again upon those signatories, and the entire Stamford community, to continue to speak out against hate and bigotry and to impress upon their constituents that expressions of intolerance are fully unacceptable.

UJF and the JCRC are committed to combating hate and securing our community institutions and will continue to work with law enforcement, community leaders and public officials to address this growing concern.

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