

Town of Waterford, Connecticut
Rob Brule
First Selectman

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WATERFORD, CT

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For Immediate Release:

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WITEST: *David L. Ferland*
TOWN CLERK

For More Information, Contact:

Waterford Police Department
Lieutenant David Ferland
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Statement from First Selectman Rob Brule Following Swastika Incident in Waterford

The Town strongly condemns anti-Semitic graphics and acts of cowardice and bigotry. Last night, the Town received a report of several swastikas' painted on playground equipment located in Leary Park. We are saddened and angered to hear of the ugly anti-Semitic vandalism that appeared on our local playground. The swastika is a symbol of hate and violence and has no place in any community, and we are outraged that it has emerged here, in our community, and on a playground. The symbols of antisemitism are threatening and painful.

This incident is evidence that no community, even one as welcoming as Waterford, is immune to hatred. We must remain ever vigilant in denouncing these acts and in supporting efforts to combat bigotry and hatred. In Waterford, we strive to be an inclusive community and to educate and advocate with others towards this important goal. We must be tireless in our efforts to support each other within our community that we are all fortunate enough to call home.

The Town and the Waterford Police Department takes this incident very seriously and is conducting an investigation to determine who is responsible. The hateful images have already been removed by town staff. Anyone with information or who may have been in this area in the last 48 hours and witnessed suspicious activity are asked to contact Lieutenant David Ferland at the Police Department at 860-442-9451 x2328. Individuals who identify offensive messages should contact the Police Department immediately to report it and not remove it until police can suitably document it. Police or Town staff will remove it after it has been documented.