



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement from the Village of Wilmette regarding Anti-Semitic Literature

WILMETTE, IL. – (June 1, 2022) – Packets containing anti-Semitic hate speech were found early in the morning of Wednesday, June 1, 2022 on approximately five parkways in the 1300 block of Chestnut Avenue in Wilmette. This appears to be similar to the content dropped in neighboring communities, most recently in Glencoe, Kenilworth, Winnetka, and Highland Park in late April.

The materials contained flyers with anti-Semitic images and language and were packaged in plastic bags weighed down by rice. The materials appear to be dropped at random. The Wilmette Police Department will be coordinating an investigation with our neighbors into the distribution of these materials.

“The Village Board and I absolutely reject these acts of antisemitism against our community,” stated Wilmette Village President Senta Plunkett, “we strive to foster an inclusive community and are both saddened and disgusted by these actions in Wilmette and our neighboring communities. In no uncertain terms, we denounce all forms of hate speech and stand by our Jewish neighbors.”

“We have seen antisemitic acts throughout the region and across our country,” stated Police Chief Kyle Murphy, “and I want to ensure our residents that the Wilmette Police Department is fully committed to working closely with local, state and federal law enforcement to investigate these reprehensible actions.”

The Village of Wilmette along with its Human Relations Commission work every day to cultivate an environment where people of all religious backgrounds feel safe and respected within their own community and reject any speech that promotes hate for any persons. These incidents give us the opportunity to educate the public about historical atrocities and discuss the harm that displays like this have on our residents.

For more information on the Holocaust, and the history of anti-Semitism, please take the opportunity to visit the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center’s website at <https://www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/>.

Village of Wilmette:

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