



CONNECTICUT REGIONAL OFFICE

**NEWS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **ADL Offers \$2,000 Reward for Information in Swastika Graffiti Incidents around Ridgefield**

RIDGEFIELD, CT, January 18, 2018 ... The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) announced today it is offering a \$2,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual or individuals responsible for incidents of swastika graffiti around Ridgefield this week.

According to police and other reports, five swastikas were found drawn on the outside of the Masonic Lodge and the Aldrich Museum in Ridgefield this week. They are believed to have been drawn by the same person. Swastikas were also discovered on a classroom door in Ridgefield High School in November, on a table at the high school in September, at Ballard Park last June, and outside Ridgefield High School last March.

"We hope this reward facilitates the quick apprehension of whoever is behind this upsetting outbreak of swastika and hateful vandalism in Ridgefield," said Steve Ginsburg, ADL Connecticut Regional Director. "We commend the Ridgefield Police Department for investigating these hateful acts and First Selectman Marconi for his support. We cannot allow this despicable hateful vandalism to go unchecked in Ridgefield, or anywhere else."

ADL has previously led an program entitled "Strengthening the Bonds of our Community" for fifty Ridgefield town leaders, including Town department heads, members of the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Education, and the Board of Finance, as well as all of the school principals and the Superintendent of Schools. ADL also conducted a World of Difference education program at Ridgefield High School.

In the first three quarters of 2017, ADL recorded 13 incidents of anti-Semitic vandalism across Connecticut, as well as a 106% increase in anti-Semitic incidents statewide.

Anyone with information about the vandalism is encouraged to call Detective Tom Dardis and Police Officer Anthony McMahon at (203) 438-6531.

*The Anti-Defamation League, founded in 1913, is devoted to fighting anti-Semitism, racism and other forms of bigotry, building bridges of understanding and safeguarding our liberties.*