



Office of Legislator Seth I. Koslow

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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April 4, 2025

Patrick J. Ryder, Commissioner
Nassau County Police Department
1490 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, N.Y. 11501

Dear Commissioner Ryder:

Following the reports of appalling and cowardly acts of antisemitism at parks within the Town of Hempstead in recent days, I write with an urgent request for an immediate increase in police patrols to deter future criminal acts of bigotry.

As outlined in numerous published reports, Nassau County Police received reports on the evening of Thursday, April 3 that antisemitic graffiti – including a swastika – was discovered at Rath Park in Franklin Square. Separately, public statements by U.S. Representative Laura Gillen indicate that similarly offensive graffiti was also discovered at Baldwin's Coes Neck Park.

The fact that we have now been confronted with two incidents of antisemitic vandalism in a short period of time demands a forceful response. It is not lost upon me that the community of Merrick was previously impacted by similar acts of antisemitism on a school playground – and all of this underscores the importance of ensuring safety and security for those in my community and families across Nassau County.

Prosecuting the perpetrators of these heinous acts to the fullest extent of the law and increasing police patrols at parks within the Town of Hempstead will send a clear message that there will be zero tolerance for hate crimes anywhere in Nassau County. By doing so, we are also protecting our children from being exposed to and traumatized by symbols of hate.

Patrick J. Ryder, Commissioner
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On a daily basis, I am deeply grateful for the tireless efforts put forth by the 2,500-plus men and women of the Nassau County Police Department to protect the public. I thank you for your consideration of this urgent request and look forward to further building upon our collaborative efforts with law enforcement to keep Nassau County families safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Seth I. Koslow", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Seth I. Koslow - Nassau County Legislator, District 5
Ranking Member, Committee on Public Safety