

Joint Statement City of Howell, Howell Downtown Authority and Howell Area Chamber of Commerce

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“Howell Community strongly condemns recently distributed hate flyers. Hate has no home here!”

Howell, MI – A nationally recognized white supremacy organization, the Patriot Front, is responsible for racist flyers found on vehicles outside the Historic Howell Theater this past Saturday evening.

The handouts were placed on vehicles during a fundraising event for the Sikyha Foundation, whose mission is to help girls in Northwest India.

The national group, which is based in Texas, is responsible for similar activities in Flint and Ann Arbor, as well as across the country over the last several months.

“Once again, Howell was subjected to intolerant and hateful rhetoric by a group not associated with our community,” stated Nick Proctor City of Howell Mayor. “Although we support the right of free speech we find this type of expression reprehensible. We categorically reject intolerance of any type and those who peddle in it are not welcome in our town.”

Howell area citizens and organizations such as the Livingston Diversity Council have worked hard to educate on the value of diversity to a community’s success.

“Hate, such as that expressed by Patriot Front, has no home here,” said Pat Convery, president of the Howell Area Chamber of Commerce. “The chamber and this community have worked together for years to create a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere for all who want to live, work or visit. These fliers that are not from our community are reprehensible but also remind us that there is still work to do in this country.”

“This is not who we are as a community,” said Howell Downtown Development Director, Cathleen Edgerly. To have such an incident happen in our downtown, especially where people were gathering for such a worthy cause is extremely troubling. We, as a City, will continue to be vigilant and work together to prevent these types of actions from happening in the future.”

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