

November 21, 2016

Office of the Attorney General The Capitol Albany, NY 12224-0341

Dear Attorney General Schneiderman,

This is to request the advice and assistance of your office about a matter of serious concern to our Town and its residents.

Starting on September 20th and again subsequently, the Town of Pittsford has been paid unwelcome visits by a person or people purporting to represent a white supremacist organization. They distribute literature in the night, leaving on driveways a strip of paper weighted with a pebble at one end, inviting people to a web site called "WhiteNewYork.org"

As you may expect, those of us in local government have deplored the distribution of this material and the mentality it represents. It is completely new to our experience in Pittsford. We have publicly asked its distributors to stop. They have not. From the outset, we have worked with the Monroe County Sheriff's Department in an effort to identify the person or group responsible. We believe we might be able to prosecute them under the Town's littering ordinance.

The white supremacist group recently made its web site more elaborate than it appeared originally. It now includes a mechanism by which people may donate money to the group. We are aware that there may be registration or licensing provisions under State law that apply to organizations soliciting donations.

We ask that your office evaluate the situation and consider what action you may be able to take to respond to this matter and to cause this activity claiming to support white supremacism to cease.

To all Pittsford residents this is a matter of deep concern. To many, of all ethnic backgrounds, it represents something ranging from a personal insult to a tangible threat. It has no place in our town, nor anywhere in our state or nation.

This letter is sent on my own behalf and on behalf of all of my colleagues on the Pittsford Town Board. We will appreciate any advice you may offer and we thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

William A. Smith, Jr.

Town Supervisor

