

Press



Release

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For Immediate Release

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County Legislators to Call Upon Merchants to Refrain from Sale or Display of Derogatory St. Patrick's Day Merchandise

New City, NY (March 5, 2013) – Rockland County Legislators Douglas Jobson, Patrick Moroney and Ilan Schoenberger will introduce a resolution at tonight's 7:00 p.m. meeting of the County Legislature to call upon local merchants to refrain from the sale or display of St. Patrick's Day merchandise that displays derogatory or defamatory messages and misrepresents Irish heritage and tradition. The legislature passed a similar resolution last year, when offensive merchandise was displayed for sale in advance of St. Patrick's Day. Many in the public were outraged that T-shirts, hats and novelty items with offensive words were displayed in full view of children. Several merchants understood the issue when approached by members of the Irish community and agreed to remove the offensive items from display. Unfortunately, offensive merchandise has reappeared in some stores in recent weeks.

The resolution also states outrage for any act that misrepresents, ridicules or promotes hate and bias toward any religious, ethnic, racial or cultural groups.

"Rockland County is home to one of the most diverse populations in the state," said Legislator Jobson. "and we are enriched by the culture and customs that they bring to our county. When one population is offended in a crude or offensive manner, we all must be offended. The annual St. Patrick's Day Parade is one of the most anticipated events in the county and brings an immense sense of unity and pride to the thousands of Rocklanders that attend. Items that demean and ridicule this anticipated event and the Irish culture are hurtful to the dedicated event organizers and to anyone, anywhere of Irish heritage."

Legislator Schoenberger added, "We are informing merchants by resolution of the Legislature that we stand with the Irish-American community to state that it is inappropriate to display or sell items that are offensive in nature and hurtful to the Irish-Americans. Our legislature stands against this repeated display of hateful merchandising."

"We can not mandate the removal of the merchandise," said Legislator Moroney. "We are calling upon these merchants to be considerate and respectful of the feelings and pride of those of Irish heritage. I imagine they would expect the same."

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