

Press



Release

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For Immediate Release

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Legislator Schoenberger Supports ADL Concerns Regarding Offensive Sheriff Campaign Video

New City, NY (June 8, 2015) – Rockland County Legislator Ilan Schoenberger joined with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) to express his concern regarding a video on the Rockland Republican Party website which suggests by imagery and voice over, that Rockland's Orthodox Jewish community is responsible for illegal and unsafe housing issues in the County. The video includes a photo of County Sheriff Louis Falco surrounded by Orthodox community members with a voice over stating that the sheriff has refused to enforce illegal housing laws. The video supports the candidacy of Richard Vasquez, Republican candidate for County Sheriff in November.

Evan R. Bernstein, ADL's New York Regional Director, said "We find the use of an image of visibly identifiable Jews in this campaign video to be deeply troubling, highly offensive, and inappropriate, as it essentially blames the Orthodox Jewish community for the substandard and illegal housing problems in Rockland."

"The Republican Party," said Schoenberger, "by posting this on its website has shown that they agree and support this negative stereotype of religious Jews and intend to use these harmful portrayals for their political campaign purposes. This is inappropriate and offensive."

Schoenberger added, "I wholeheartedly support Mr. Bernstein's statement, 'Voters should be encouraged to make decisions about candidates based upon their qualifications, political positions and not on the basis of race or religion, without offensive insertions ascribing blame on an issue to a particular religious group'."

Legislator Schoenberger has sponsored a memorializing resolution to formally support the ADL position, and that will appear on the agenda of an upcoming Legislature committee.

-see more-

**Draft of Schoenberger Resolution Attached
View ADL Statement @**

<http://newyork.adl.org/news/adl-expresses-concern-over-inappropriate-and-offensive-rockland-county-sheriff-campaign-video/>

WHEREAS, the _____ Committee has met, considered and by a _____, approved this resolution; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Legislature of Rockland County hereby expresses its support for the position taken by the Anti-Defamation League and its concerns of the inappropriate and offensive Sheriff's campaign video and its use by the Rockland County Republican Party; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk to the Legislature be and hereby is authorized and directed to send a copy of this resolution to such persons as the Clerk, in his discretion, may deem proper in order to effectuate the purpose of this resolution.

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