

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NOVEMBER 30, 2016**

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### **ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP REACTS TO VANDALISM**

One of the cornerstones of any great community is to embrace all religions, races and creeds and Rockaway Township prides itself on this ideal. The Rockaway Township Administration and Police were appalled to learn that offensive symbols and language were etched into a slide at a White Meadow Lake playground, where our most impressionable and innocent population visit. Once found, an investigation into the crimes began immediately and patrols of the area were increased. The display of these symbols is not tolerated on any property within the Township.

It is our duty and responsibility to come together as community leaders, teachers, and parents to educate our youth on the importance of tolerance and diversity, in order to foster a safe and accepting community. This begins with including our children in the conversation and teaching them to embrace the differences amongst us all.

In no way do these disgraceful acts reflect on our citizens or leaders. Exclusion and discrimination are not accepted on any level in this municipality, and it is important to remember that Rockaway Township is a tolerant and inclusive community which embraces diversity. The Township Administration in conjunction with the Rockaway Township Police Department will continue to fight for tolerance, acceptance of others.