



For Immediate Release

Contact: Neil Millens, 845-338-8131; info@ucjf.org

Jewish Federation of Ulster County Issues Follow-Up Statements Regarding anti-Semitic Incidents at Mother Earth Storehouse in Kingston & Town of Hurley

Kingston, NY, March 25, 2019: The Jewish Federation of Ulster County and its Community Relations Committee's (CRC) acknowledges and appreciates that the New York State Police and Governor Cuomo's office took swift, decisive, and unambiguous action on Friday, March 22nd in response to the anti-Semitic incident which took place at the Mother Earth Storehouse on March 11th. As stated by the Governor, *"Bias-related crime, hate crimes, are not just wrong, they're not just unethical, they are illegal."* As NY State Police Acting Superintendent Keith Corlett further stated, *"Bias-related crimes are not welcome in this state."* The Jewish Federation has a zero-tolerance policy for hate crimes and bias.

In another incident, anti-Semitic comments made by the Town of Hurley Highway Superintendent have been the subject of recently published articles in the *Daily Freeman*, *Woodstock Times* and Hugh Reynold's blog. The Jewish Federation of Ulster County's Community Relations Committee (CRC) had been notified in January 2019 about the comments, the subsequent filing of a complaint by the injured employee, and the resulting Town investigation. The CRC has been providing support and guidance to the employee involved. Following formal complaints and an internal investigation, the Town of Hurley publicly censured the Superintendent, who is an elected official. Participants are awaiting the outcome of the Town's requests to the Superintendent to provide the employee with a formal written apology and attend sensitivity training. The Town can only request, but not demand that elected officials adhere to Town recommendations. As of this date issues remain unresolved.

The CRC is not an investigative body, but does want to make known that the account of the incident as described in the media by the Superintendent varies significantly from the account made by the employee to the CRC and to the Town Supervisor. Moreover, the Town's attorney investigated the charges which led to the Town Board taking action. The CRC is monitoring the situation and continues to speak out against anti-Semitic speech and behavior.

If anyone is the target of or witnesses any anti-Semitic incidents or any other discriminatory practices, please do not hesitate to contact the Jewish Federation office at (845) 338-8131 or info@ucjf.org and the Ulster County Human Rights Commission at (845) 340-3147. The Jewish Federation of Ulster County appreciates the support of the community in this matter.