

From: "Arthur Giacalone"
To: "cscanlon@city-buffalo.com"
Sent: Wednesday May 18 2022 12:41:58PM
Subject: Time for "uncomfortable conversation" with Kalendas

Dear South District Council Member Scanlon,

I'd appreciate confirmation that you have received this email.

On Monday, May 16, you poignantly stated at a televised press conference that it is time to have "uncomfortable conversations" about racist comments and behavior, whether or not such conversations lose you friends. I firmly agree with your statement, and, would add, even if an elected official loses votes by broaching such subjects.

As I believe you know, the Kalenda residence at the corner of Indian Church Road and Parkview Avenue has long exhibited and subjected residents and passersby to symbols of pro-gun, anti-Black, and pro-White nationalist sentiments. In response to Saturday's racially-motivated massacre of 10 innocents at the Jefferson Avenue Tops market, and subsequent calls for stronger restrictions on military-style weaponry, the Kalendas hung their "Come And Take It" flag bearing the silhouette of a military-style rifle, alongside a "Liberty" banner and what appears to be a Betsy Ross-era American flag. In between the three large flags, these Western New York born-and-bred citizens also display a smaller Confederate flag. [See attached photo, taken this morning, May 18.]

As you are aware, the Kalenda residence is diagonally across Indian Church Road from a predominantly-Black church. Its congregants are confronted by the Kalendas' hateful symbols every time they gather to worship, learn, or join together for social activities.

As a constituent and resident of the Seneca/Indian Church Road neighborhood, I urge you to start the urgently needed "uncomfortable conversation" with these South District proponents of anti-Black, pro-White nationalist sentiment.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Arthur J. Giacalone

