



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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The following is the prepared statement by Representative Demetrius J. Atsalis of the 2nd Barnstable District read by his Community Relations Director Thomas P. Bernardo (of Centerville) at the Unity Rally held at Barnstable High School on the evening of November 10, 2009.

Now More Than Ever

Sadly, we are here tonight in a show of unity for our community. We gather together in order to send a message that hate, prejudice and or any direct targeting of a person, place, religion or of anything different- simply to target it for assault, is to be condemned. So let us agree that cruelty in this most recent assail and in all its forms is wrong! The only thing which could make this act of violence worst would be for this community to remain silent and not send a resounding message of rejection to this and other forms of hate in our town.

The Rabbi, recently stated that **“we had hoped that Cape Cod would be different”**, **“but we were wrong, it is no different”**. To that, I sadly cannot disagree with the recent sad news of this senseless crime. However, we as a community have an opportunity to make future statements about our town and in return for Cape Cod very different. We can and need to use this moment not merely to condemn and reject these actions but to not forget that any tolerance of intolerance leads assuredly to greater prejudice and actions such as these. We can

get together at times to share, rejoice and learn from one another on occasions not created from fear and intolerance but out of goodness and desire to evolve and grow as a community.

This crime could have happened to any house of worship and or place of cultural uniqueness but it didn't, it happened here to us. So we need to make it clear that this type of behavior is not acceptable now or ever. That we as a community will not stand idly by and fall victim to apathy but step forward and show by example that we are different and therefore "are not like everyplace else".

This is a solemn moment we share this evening but let us make it a turning point for our community that our collective futures remember tonight as opportunity not lost and lessons learned.

Thank you,

Representative Demetrius J. Atsalis
2nd Barnstable District