

# PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

## **Village Leaders Address Community on Racial Issue** *Zero tolerance towards racism*

Village of Hempstead Mayor Wayne J. Hall, in conjunction with civic leaders and elected officials, held a news conference to respond to the discovery of a derogatory term for Hispanics etched into wet concrete on two sections of a sidewalk on Leverich Street in Hempstead.

"We must not stand silent as our neighbors are being attacked merely because of their race and perceived immigration status," stated Mayor Wayne Hall.



Circulo de la Hispanidad, a nonprofit community group, stood behind officials holding posters with messages calling an end to all discrimination. Community Leaders including Nassau Legislator Roger Corbin, Hempstead Police Chief Joseph Wing, Executive Director of the Circulo de la Hispanidad Gil Bernadino, Executive Director of the Hempstead Hispanic Civic Association George Siberon and Executive Director of the Nassau Coordinating Agency for Spanish Americans Marianela Jordan addressed the press and residents on unity and equality for all races.

"We have removed the concrete sections of the sidewalk that contained the racial slurs and will continue to take any measures to repress discrimination in our village," added Mayor Hall. "Village officials urge community members to stand up against ignorance and racism."

Hempstead Police Chief Joseph Wing said that Nassau detectives are further investigating. Additionally, if residents have any information about a crime, please call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 800-244-TIPS. This program offers complete anonymity and a reward of up to \$2,000 to anyone who gives information leading to the arrest of an offender.