

MaryJane Shimsky**Legislator, 12th District****Majority Whip****Chair, Committee on Public Works**

Committee Assignments:

Appointments

Environment, Health & Energy

Law & Major Contracts

Legislation

Parks, Planning & Economic Development

Public Safety

Seniors & Constituencies

Social Services

MEMORANDUM

TO: Benjamin Boykin, Chair, Board of Legislators
FROM: MaryJane Shimsky, Legislator – 12th District
DATE: August 6th, 2018
RE: *The Journal News*: “Croton schools warn residents about Identity Evropa white-nationalist posters” by Matt Spillane

Please add the attached *article* to the PS and SS committees.

“Croton schools warn residents about Identity Evropa white-nationalist posters”

August 6th, 2018

Page | 2

CROTON-ON-HUDSON - The Croton-Harmon school district is warning people about white-nationalist posters that have been seen near its schools recently.

Fliers for Identity Evropa have been posted near Croton-Harmon High School and Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School, the district said in an email to parents and staff on Tuesday. At least one poster was seen on a utility pole in Croton-on-Hudson.

The district initially said it was told by village police that officers would remove those posters, but the district clarified that in an updated email this morning.

"Since our first alert was emailed to the community, we have been advised by the Croton Police Department that, on the advice of legal counsel, they cannot remove the posters," the district said.

Croton police could not immediately be reached for comment.

Identity Evropa touts itself as "a fraternal organization for people of European heritage located in the United States that participates in community building and civic engagement," according to its website.

In a statement provided to The Journal News/lohud, Evropa said it does not post fliers near schools.

"Identity Evropa is an identitarian organization focused on issues that uniquely affect European Americans – in particular, the ongoing demographic transformation in America that will result in a White minority by 2045," the statement reads. "We participate in lawful, non-violent activism to raise awareness of these issues. Our activists are instructed to avoid flyering on or near elementary, middle, and high schools; as such, any proximity of our materials to such places is coincidental rather than intentional."

The group has been active in posting fliers on college campuses around the country in an effort to recruit new members. In October 2017 its posters were removed by school officials from the campuses of Purchase College and Westchester Community College.

The Croton-Harmon school district said in its email that Identity Evropa is classified as a white supremacist organization by the Anti-Defamation League, and as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center. The group was also tied to the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, last year that ended in violence, the district said.

"We urge parents to speak to their children about these organizations and to watch for any noticeable changes in the behavior of your impressionable teens," the district said. "We are proud of Croton's diversity and harmony, and we know you are as well."