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September 10, 2021

Christian Suttle
Assistant Superintendent
Cobb County School District
514 Glover Street
Marietta, GA 30060

Dear Assistant Superintendent Suttle,

Yesterday, a photo was brought to our attention by constituents and social media showing two Swastikas and the message "Hail [sic] Hitler" drawn on the wall of a boys bathroom at Pope High School in Cobb County. We note that this incident may have occurred on September 8th, the second day of Rosh Hashanah, which is one of the most holy days in the Jewish faith.

Founded in 1913 in response to an escalating climate of antisemitism and bigotry, ADL is a leading anti-hate organization with the timeless mission to protect the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment for all. Today, we continue to fight all forms of hate with the same vigor and passion. A global leader in exposing extremism, delivering anti-bias education, and fighting hate online, ADL's ultimate goal is a world in which no group or individual suffers from bias, discrimination, or hate.

As you may know, the swastika is an ancient symbol used in many cultures that was adopted by Adolf Hitler and turned into a symbol of hatred used by the Nazis against Jews and others. Since then, the swastika has become perhaps the most notorious hate symbol in Western culture. "Heil Hitler" was used by the Germans or their supporters during the Nazi regime as a greeting or an acclamation of the supremacy of Hitler. Neo-Nazis, white supremacists, and other extremists regularly target Jews and other minorities with the swastika and "Heil Hitler" to convey messages of hate, intimidation, and violence.

If not already initiated, we urge the Cobb County School District and Pope High School to conduct a thorough, transparent investigation of this incident and take any necessary remedial measures. In a time of surging antisemitism and hate across the country, this incident should not be treated as an isolated event. Incidents like these must be used as teachable moments to help educate the school community and prevent similar incidents in the future. We urge the school district to take proactive measures to accomplish this. As the leading organization fighting antisemitism in the nation, we stand ready to assist.

Please respond to this letter with your planned course of action to address this incident and more broadly, your plan to create a culture that would help prevent similar incidents from occurring in future by close of business on Monday, September 13th.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allison Padilla-Goodman".

Allison Padilla-Goodman
Vice President, ADL Southern Division

CC: Chris Ragsdale, Superintendent, Cobb County School District
Dr. Tom Flugum, Principal, Pope High School

ADL Southeast

P.O. Box 8379, Atlanta, GA 31106 | t: 404.262.3470 | f: 404.262.3548 | atlanta.adl.org