

A Message from New Rochelle Public Library

On Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022 a community event in honor of a young New Rochelle resident tragically killed by gun violence was held at the New Rochelle Public Library (NRPL) theater, and organized by New Rochelle community members. The intent of the program, and as it was presented to the Library, was to “bring awareness to black on black violence in the community that has happened, is happening, and will continue to happen if we do not address the problem and find a solution.”

The Library understood the program to be a collaborative effort of local organizations and leaders to bring unity to the community, and its goal is typical of the type of program for which we would normally make the Library's theater available.

The Library had no knowledge that the Nation of Islam (NOI) was part of the program. NRPL does not condone nor support any organization that espouses hatred, bigotry, antisemitism or intolerance of any kind, and we do not invite such organizations to present within our facility. Had the Library known that NOI would be present, and participate, we would have asked for them to be removed from the program.

NRPL is disappointed that news of this group's presence has overshadowed an effort to bring healing and unity to a community continuously and disproportionately impacted by violence.

The Library's staff, Board and attorneys are currently reviewing a policy that will ensure users of, and programs at, any Library facilities are thoroughly vetted.

December 18, 2022