



## Office of the Mayor

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The City of Fitchburg was notified early this afternoon of a concerning “decoration” located in our city. A photograph of this display with a caption was widely circulated on social media. We strongly value the diverse community we serve and we recognize the impact this display may have on members of our community, specifically our African-American community members.

As community leaders, we elected to have a member of the police department speak with the resident to inform them of this perspective and, despite no law being violated, requested the resident to reconsider this decoration. We were able to speak with the resident this afternoon. The resident was completely understanding of the concerns and stated they had had no ill intent behind the decoration. The resident indicated to us that they would remove the decoration.

Our efforts to communicate with the resident to provide perspective will hopefully bring some closure to this specific situation. We understand this incident may generate additional community conversation and we ask our community members to be kind and respectful toward one another as we move forward.

Mayor Aaron Richardson