

## WOMAN INVITES WHITE SUPREMACIST TO SPEAK - HALE PLANS TO TALK IN SCHAUMBURG

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Author: Mickey Ciokajlo, Tribune staff reporter.

White supremacist Matthew Hale plans to speak in Schaumburg at the request of a Hoffman Estates woman who says local residents are concerned about the increasingly diverse population of the northwest suburbs.

The speech, tentatively scheduled for April 14, would be Hale's first public appearance in the Chicago area since protestors forced him off Northwestern University's campus in January 2000. A location in Schaumburg has not been set.

"Believe it or not, white people in my area, they want Matt Hale to come speak," said Kathleen Robertazzo, 49, who said Wednesday she has talked to about 50 people who support Hale's visit. "They don't want this diversity that's being pushed on us."

Census data released last week confirm the northwest suburbs have become more diverse, with growing black, Hispanic and Asian populations.

Hale is the leader of the East Peoria-based World Church of the Creator, which among other stances advocates deporting minorities.

A former follower, Benjamin Smith, went on a murder-suicide shooting rampage in July 1999 that injured nine people and killed two, including former Northwestern basketball coach Ricky Byrdsong.

An Illinois House committee last week approved tougher hate-crime legislation that is supported by Byrdsong's widow, Sherialyn.

Hale said he does not advocate violence, but it does seem to follow him. Police in Connecticut two weeks ago used pepper spray on demonstrators protesting Hale's speech in a library.

Robertazzo submitted a request in January to reserve a large meeting room in the Schaumburg Township District Library for Hale to speak on Saturday, April 14. Citing concerns about possible disruptions, the library board this week gave Robertazzo until Monday to find an alternate location, library director Michael Madden said.

Robertazzo said she was open to moving the speech elsewhere and had called Schaumburg Township officials asking to use their hall. However, Supervisor Linda Wing said the hall is only available on weekends for township-sponsored events.

Madden said if an alternate location is not found by Monday, the library board would call a special meeting to determine whether Hale could speak there. Hale said if he cannot use the township hall, he would be willing to go to court to force the use of the library.

This is not the first time the library has been faced with a controversial decision. Last year, Hoffman Estates resident Christopher Bollyn, who later ran an unsuccessful campaign for mayor, challenged the library to stock a controversial book that alleged an Israeli conspiracy in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Caption: PHOTO

PHOTO: Kathleen Robertazzo says, "White people in my area, they want Matt Hale to come speak." Tribune photo by John Dziekan.

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Page: 6

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