

## CITING SAFETY, SCHAUMBURG LIBRARY NIXES SPEECH BY WHITE SUPREMACIST

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White supremacist Matthew Hale 's planned speech next month at the Schaumburg Township District Library was derailed Sunday night when the library board declined the request.

The board took 40 minutes in executive session to come to a decision to deny the request, which it said was based on concerns of public safety and crowd control.

"We are strong supporters of the 1st Amendment. We don't want to put our staff or residents in jeopardy," said board President Harold Sterling.

Other than library officials and police, the only person attending the special meeting was Kathleen Robertazzo, a Hoffman Estates woman who invited Hale to speak.

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

Robertazzo said she will talk to Hale about what to do next and will look for another venue for the speech, which is tentatively planned for April 14. Hale has said he would sue the library if another venue is not found.

Robertazzo said she invited Hale after talking to about 50 people who are concerned about the increasingly diverse population in the northwest suburbs. Recent census data show the northwest suburbs has growing black, Hispanic and Asian populations. Library officials and Robertazzo said they had received threats since reports of the proposed speech.

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