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Alan Dershowitz denied pierogi at Martha's Vineyard farmer's market



by Ethan Genter; Vineyard Gazette

Alan Dershowitz, a seasonal Chilmark resident and prominent attorney known for his controversial clients, is threatening litigation after he was **denied a half dozen pierogi at the West Tisbury Farmers' Market this week.**

A Harvard Law professor famous for his public outcries of being socially ostracized on Martha's Vineyard, Mr. Dershowitz issued the threat and laid out his **claims of discrimination at the summer market in a Thursday. [30-minute video posted on Youtube](#)**

He alleged that he tried to order the dumplings at Good Pierogi during the weekly Wednesday market, **before the person at the stand refused to do business with him due to Mr. Dershowitz's politics.**

"He said at one point he didn't like the people I defended," said Mr. Dershowitz, who has represented O.J. Simpson, Jeffrey Epstein and Donald Trump. "A lot of people don't like the people I've represented, but they don't refuse to serve me. And I said 'That was pure McCarthyism.'"

During his video, in which he sported a farmers' market T-shirt, Mr. Dershowitz went on to threaten legal action against the farmers' market to ensure that they only have booths that will sell to everybody and don't allow booths that discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion or politics.

Ethan Buchanan-Valenti, the manager of the farmers' market, offered a brief statement on the incident.

"The West Tisbury Farmers' Market is committed to supporting local agriculture and business — and that means not only supporting our vendors, but our patrons as well," he wrote. "We are reviewing our own internal bylaws to make sure everyone at the market is always being respected and their rights protected."

Police were called around 10 a.m. to assist with the situation. According to a statement from West Tisbury police, Mr. Dershowitz expressed displeasure with the operators of the pierogi tent, an officer de-escalated the situation, and everyone went their separate ways.

A video taken by a bystander shows Mr. Dershowitz's interaction with a police officer. In the video, posted on social media, Mr. Dershowitz claims that the refusal of service was against the law and he goes on to have a several minute conversation with the officer.

The officer asks Mr. Dershowitz to stop standing at the front of the stand as other customers come up and also notes that because the stand was a private establishment, they had the right to refuse service.

"They have the right to refuse customers of their choosing," the officer can be heard saying. NOT TRUE!

Good Pierogi is run by Krem Miskevich and started at the farmers' market this year. They did not respond to a request for comment Thursday, though the business did thank the person who posted the video of the officer interaction in an Instagram comment.

Mr. Dershowitz is a regular at the farmers' market, and can often be seen there wearing a shirt that reads "Proud American Zionist." He mentioned the shirt during his Youtube video, and claimed that **Wednesday's incident was another example of the intolerance of the Island.**

"It became evident to me that [the pierogi seller] opposed my being a Zionist, my support for Israel," Mr. Dershowitz said.

This is not Mr. Dershowitz's first kerfuffle on the Island. He allegedly got into a tiff with comedian Larry David on the porch of the Chilmark General Store, and waged a public campaign against the Chilmark library and others for not inviting him to talk about his work.

"I've been on the Island now 50 years," he said. **"I don't think I've ever seen a place that is as intolerant as Martha's Vineyard."**

Wednesday's incident attracted international attention, gaining press in New York Magazine, The Daily Beast, and The Independent.