

Channel 12 General Manager "Horrified" By Joke About Waukesha Parade Massacre On ABC's "The Conners"

By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

The general manager of the local ABC-TV affiliate, Channel 12's Jan Wade, tells me the station is "horrified" by a recent episode of ABC's "The Conners" in which last year's Waukesha Christmas Parade is played for laughs.

In a recent episode, one of the show's characters jokes about driving to Wisconsin and crashing through a parade route, hitting a marching band and feeling the "thump thump" of hitting numerous parade participants. The description is identical to what happened during last November's massacre at the Waukesha Christmas parade.

Dan Tiegs, the father of a boy badly injured in the parade, made a Facebook post in which he condemned the attempt by "the Conners to make light of a crime in which six people were killed and dozens more badly injured.

ABC's Milwaukee affiliate is WISN-TV Channel 12. (WISN-TV and WISN-AM have no connection and are under different ownership.) The station general manager, Jan Wade, says she contacted ABC to express her disgust with the episode. Wade said the comments on the show were "appalling and insensitive."

"We are mortified by this incredible lapse of judgment on someone at ABC Entertainment's part. How could anyone think a joke about this horrific tragedy is funny," Wade said in an email to me.

Here is a link to Tiegs' Facebook post (Facebook access required):

<https://www.facebook.com/1260249564/videos/6169470649730228/>

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