



Police Department



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 16, 2021

Incident: Graffiti Vandalism at Fremont Synagogue Being Investigated as a Hate Crime

Location: Temple Beth Torah, 42000 block of Stevenson Blvd

Date/Time of Incident: February 10, 2021

On February 10, 2021, Fremont Patrol Officers responded to the Temple Beth Torah, located in the 42000 block of Stevenson Blvd., to investigate a report of vandalism. Upon arrival officers met with on-site employees who directed their attention to a 4" swastika drawn on an exterior wall of the synagogue. Officers documented the incident, and immediately searched the area for evidence, to include video surveillance. It's unknown when the incident occurred. The initial report was classified as a hate crime and the case has been assigned to our Investigative Unit for additional follow up.

Chief Kimberly Petersen stated, "This is unacceptable, and I have personally seen that this be made a high priority investigation for our department. Fremont is a city that celebrates diversity, and this is not reflective of our collective values. Hate and bias motivated crimes will not be tolerated in our community."

This is Fremont's first reported hate crime in 2021. In 2020, the Department documented five hate crime incidents. Information on hate crimes, can be located on the Department's Transparency Portal at fremontpolice.gov/transparency.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to please contact Detective Michael Gebhardt at Mgebhardt@fremont.gov or call 510-790-5954. We will also accept anonymous tips. Text: Tip FremontPD followed by a short message to 888777 or via the web at <https://local.nixle.com/tip/alert/6216337>.

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