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Supervisor Spitzer Stands with Community Leaders Against Jewish Hate Crime

IRVINE, CA – Orange County Supervisor Todd Spitzer joined community, religious, and government leaders against the vandal who attacked Temple Beth Jacob synagogue in Irvine on Wednesday.

Together, they decried the act of hate inflicted upon the Jewish community during a press conference today.

“Orange County has traditionally been one of the best places to live in the United States,” Spitzer said. “Over the past three years, our way of life has been shattered by individuals engaging in hate crimes. We have seen a 27 percent in hate crimes since 2015 because these cases are not being prosecuted as vigorously as other surrounding counties.

“I am both shocked and angered at the individuals who would commit these acts and also by the fact that our District Attorney’s Office is not committed to stamping out these crimes,” Spitzer said.

[In 2017, hate crime was up 13 percent from the year before](#), according to a report by the Orange County Human Relations Commission. The Jewish community was the second largest victimized group behind Muslims. In 2016, Jewish individuals were the third largest group.

The Orange County District Attorney’s Office has filed charges in 57 percent of the hate crimes during the past 13 years while Los Angeles County filed 70 percent of their cases. In San Diego and San Bernardino counties, prosecutors filed 80 percent of the hate crime cases referred by law enforcement.

Several recent high profile cases have had hate crime charges stricken by the District Attorney's Office, while lesser charges were prosecuted.

"This is unacceptable," Spitzer said of the prosecution rate. "How do we explain this to our victims – that their crimes don't matter?"

The attack against Temple Beth Jacob was committed by a lone male who used red paint to spray a racial slur on the outside of the building. The individual was caught on video, but so far no arrest has been made. This came four days after 11 worshippers were murdered in a Pittsburgh synagogue.

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