



*(Vandalism damage to The Hebrew Discovery Center.)
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Vandals Again Damage Hebrew Discovery Center Days After Court Hearing Involving Rabbi

Police are investigating the vandalism as a potential hate crime

Van Nuys, CA—Vandals this weekend attacked the Hebrew Discovery Center (HDC) in Van Nuys, just days after its Rabbi, Netanel Louie, appeared in civil court challenging a judge's decision to penalize him for reporting previous vandalism to police.

“We must condemn acts of hatred and vandalism against any place of worship,” said Stephanie Taub, Senior Counsel for First Liberty Institute, who represents HDC. “The members of HDC are shocked and frightened by these hate crimes. The violence against the synagogue must stop.”

During the night of Saturday, July 13, 2019, vandals threw paint and bricks at the synagogue. Fortunately, no one was injured. Police are investigating as a potential hate crime. This isn't the first case of violence against HDC.

In October of 2016, a band of activists stormed onto the synagogue's property, stole electronics, and caused thousands of dollars in damage to the property. Rabbi Louie

witnessed the vandalism, catching some of the disturbance on video, and reported the incident to the police. One person in the group was charged with vandalism, theft, and trespass. The case was eventually dismissed because prosecutors did not have enough evidence to prove the case beyond a reasonable doubt.

Afterward, the activist who was caught at the scene of the crime sued the Rabbi for reporting her to the police, and a California judge awarded her over \$6,000. First Liberty represents the Rabbi on appeal, which was heard by a judge just last week.

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About First Liberty Institute

[First Liberty Institute](#) is the largest legal organization in the nation dedicated exclusively to defending religious freedom for all Americans.

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