



# OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



March 2, 2023

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street, Room 383  
Los Angeles, California 90012

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT'S REPORT ON THE RESPONSE TO INCREASES IN ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS

Dear Supervisors:

On January 24, 2023, the Board of Supervisors requested the Los Angeles County (County) Sheriff's Department (Department) to report back regarding the number of antisemitic incidents reported over the last five years, including any trends or data available regarding the incidents, the measures taken in response to the increase in antisemitic incidents, and additional measures that can be taken in order to ensure the safety of Jewish community members in the County, in consultation with the Los Angeles Commission on Human Relations, the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee, and any other relevant partners.

In preparation of this report, the Department engaged with the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations, the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, and various Jewish community groups and organizations within County to obtain their collective knowledge in order to provide a thorough response. Jewish community groups and organizations the Department consulted with included the Anti-Defamation League, the Jewish Federation, and the American Jewish Committee, who all provided insight into the unique challenges and concerns the Jewish community faces. The most prevalent concern voiced by all involved community groups and organizations was related to the safety of the Jewish community, with specific focus on hate offenses committed against members of the community.

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**REPORTING DATA OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS**

The Department prioritizes the handling of all reported hate crimes and hate incidents due to their adverse effect on victims and the community. It is for this reason the Department accepts the public reporting of both hate crimes and hate incidents, and maintains the data associated with each type of report. The Department is one of the few law enforcement agencies in County that accepts and documents non-criminal hate incident reports and encourages all municipal law enforcement agencies throughout the County to accept and document hate incident reports.

The data provided herein reflects the reports provided only to the Department, but it is recognized that community-based organizations frequently receive additional reports when combined with law enforcement data can frequently reflect a more comprehensive perspective of hate crime and incidents in our community. As a result, the Department is also working with outside law enforcement agencies and organizations such as the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations and LA vs Hate to share information and data. Partnering with outside agencies and organizations enhances our ability to better understand hate crime and hate incident trends occurring outside the Department’s policing jurisdiction and across the County.

As reflected in the chart below, during the specified five- year time period, from January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2022, an increase in antisemitic hate crime reports were made to the Department. From 2021 to 2022, a 6 percent increase in antisemitic hate crime reports, from 10 reports in 2021 to 16 reports in 2022, were made. The reporting of hate incidents remained constant from 2021 to 2022 at 11 reports.

**Hate Crime and Hate Incident Reports with Anti-Jewish Bias**

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2022 / 2021 Change
Crime Reports	3	4	2	10	16	60.00%
Incident Reports	14	13	12	11	11	0.00%
<b>Anti-Jewish Bias Total Reports</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28.57%</b>

When compared to other anti-religious hate crimes and hate incidents reported to the Department during the same five-year period, antisemitic hate offenses were consistently higher than hate offenses targeting other religious groups. In 2022,

approximately 84 percent of anti-religious hate offenses were antisemitic. Over the specified five-year period, antisemitic hate crimes and hate incidents contributed to nearly 85 percent of the total overall number of anti-religious hate crimes and hate incidents reported to the Department.

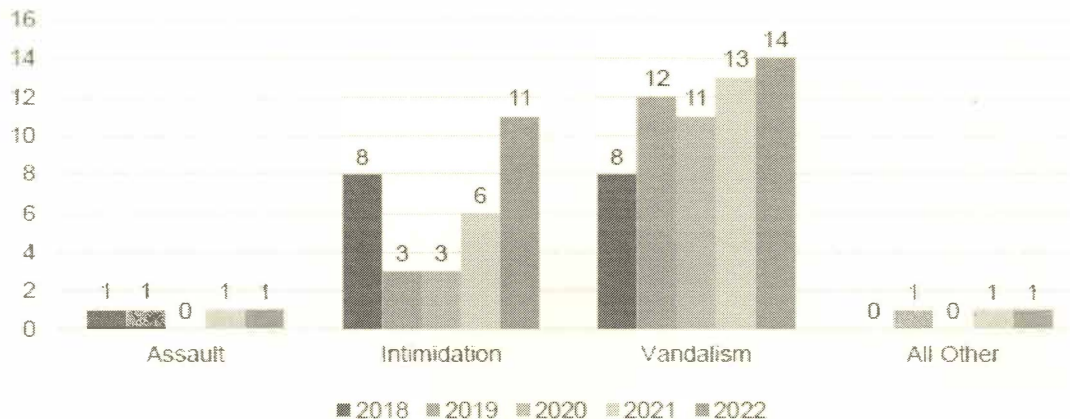
**Hate Crime and Hate Incident Reports with Anti-Religious Bias**

Bias Motivation	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Anti-Jewish	17	17	14	21	27	96
Anti-Islamic (Muslim)	2	0	1	1	2	6
Anti-Catholic	0	0	1	4	0	5
Anti-Other Christian	0	0	1	1	1	3
Anti-Mormon	1	0	0	0	1	2
Anti-Buddhist	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>113</b>

**TRENDS OBSERVED OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS**

During the analysis of the Department’s hate crime and hate incident data over the specified five-year period, vandalism and intimidation were the leading hate-related offenses committed against Jewish victims.

**Anti-Jewish Hate Crimes and Incidents by Offense**



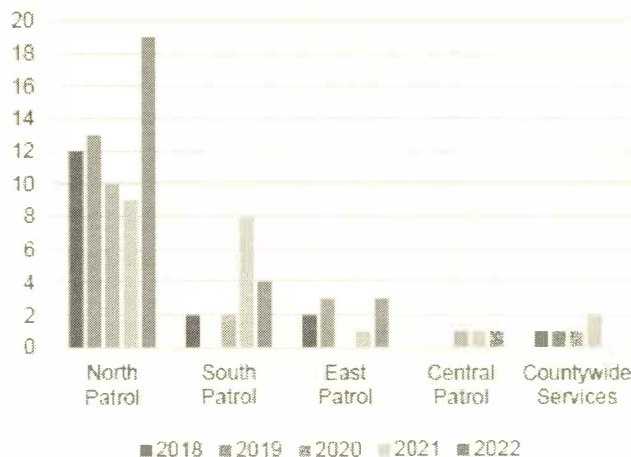
Counts are by number of reports.



As part of the Department’s collaborative efforts with the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission in compiling this report, the Commission provided Countywide antisemitic hate crime data, which included statistics and a map documenting the location of these hate crimes (Enclosure 1). The hate crime data gathered by the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission is from numerous law enforcement agencies throughout County. One area to note from their data showed that 26 percent of antisemitic crimes committed in 2021 were assault related. While the Department’s data on assault-related antisemitic hate crimes did not reflect a similar trend, it is an area of Countywide concern the Department recognizes as it continues with its prevention and outreach efforts.

In order to better understand where antisemitic hate crimes and hate incidents were occurring within the policing areas, an analysis of the data was conducted, which showed the majority of reported hate crimes and hate incidents occurred in North Patrol Division station areas. North Patrol Division is comprised of Lancaster, Malibu/Lost Hills, Palmdale, Santa Clarita, and West Hollywood Sheriff Stations.

## Anti-Jewish Hate Crimes and Incidents by Division



Counts are by number of reports.

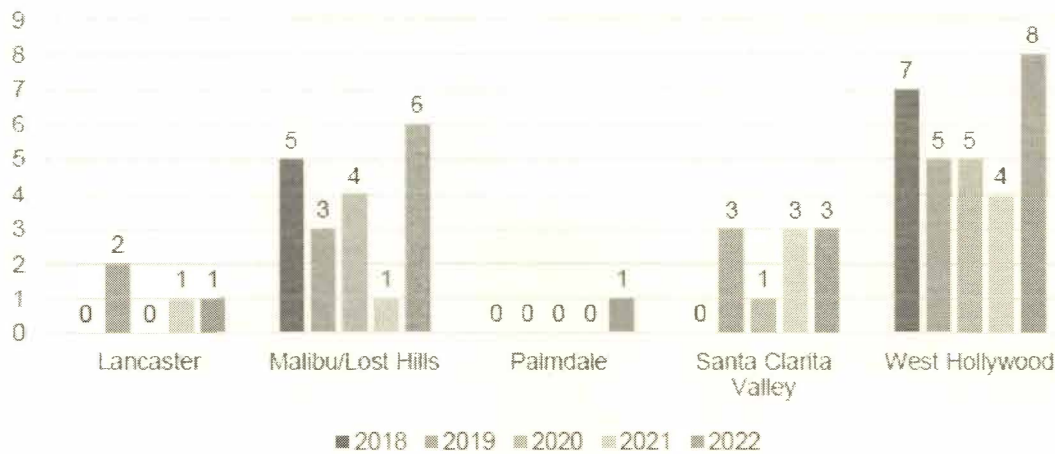
### North Patrol Division – Additional Details

- From 2018-2022, 37 of 63 (59%) reports included a swastika.
- The increase in 2022 can be attributed to the six (6) reports of verbal slurs, compared to each prior year that had no more than one (1).

As North Patrol Division was observed to consistently generate a majority of the hate crime and hate incident reports, further analysis of the data was conducted to identify which Department station recorded the most hate crime and hate incident reports. During the specified five-year period, West Hollywood station and Malibu/Lost Hills

Sheriff Stations consistently generated the most antisemitic hate crime and hate incident reports out of all North Patrol Division stations.

## Anti-Jewish Hate Crimes and Incidents North Patrol Division Stations



Counts are by number of reports.

While the Department tracks all reported hate crimes and hate incidents, and makes concerted efforts to ensure the data extracted from those reports are accurate, the Department also recognizes that its data and reports are not included in the annual Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Hate Crime Reports. This is due to the fact that as of January 1, 2021, the FBI changed its crime data reporting system to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) and it will only accept crime data through that reporting system. The Department record management system is not able to properly capture the specific data required by the NIBRS for reporting purposes. The current system is not compatible with and cannot be upgraded to become NIBRS compliant.

Many large law enforcement agencies around the United States are faced with a similar problem. According to public reporting, New York City, Los Angeles, and San Francisco Police Departments, are among the many large agencies who are also not yet reporting data.

The Department is currently examining solutions to address this problem, which will be part of a multi-year technology improvement plan including the creation and maintenance of a new record management system compatible with NIBRS. Until such time, the FBI will not accept the Department crime data into its national database.

**MEASURES TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO INCREASE IN ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS**

As part of the Department's response to increased reports of hate crimes and hate incidents, the Major Crimes Bureau Hate Crime Task Force (Task Force) ensures all reported hate crimes and hate incidents are properly handled, documented, and investigated. The Task Force also collaborates with the Department's patrol stations and community based organizations to better understand the unique challenges the diverse communities we serve face, as well as to conduct frequent outreach in order to better educate the public on hate crimes, and encourage the community to report hate crimes to law enforcement.

In response to antisemitic hate crimes and hate incidents, the Department's Task Force has taken the following measures:

- Reviewing, tracking, and analyzing all antisemitic hate crimes and hate incidents occurring in the Department areas. This includes logging data for: type(s) of crime, date/time, location and suspect identifiers, among other pertinent information;
- Analyzing hate crime data for "hot-spots" in the Department areas where rising numbers of antisemitic incidents are observed, in order to make recommendations for increased directed patrol and/or community outreach. Recommendations are based upon the types of incidents occurring.
- Increasing patrol checks of Jewish synagogues and community centers in response to major antisemitic events occurring, or planned antisemitic action by hate groups, in order to increase law enforcement visibility and deter hate offenses;
- Working in collaboration with outside law enforcement agencies, like the Los Angeles Police Department and the FBI, in order to address antisemitic incidents that are occurring cross-jurisdictionally, for the purposes of information or resource sharing, and/or joint operations to apprehend suspects of these types of crimes;
- Partnering with organizations like the Anti-Defamation League and the Jewish Federation, to better understand concerns specific to the Jewish community, such as religious observances, or cultural sensitivity issues related to customs or traditions.
- Acting as a liaison with the Department's patrol stations with large Jewish populations, to help relay information received from Jewish community groups and organizations to create increased awareness at the station level, resulting in focused directed patrol operations and to enhance community interactions. The intended result of this informational exchange between concerned Jewish groups and the



Department's patrol stations includes increased patrol checks of Jewish synagogues or community centers/gatherings during religious observances, and improved cognizance regarding the importance of specific Jewish traditions or customs when interacting with members of the Jewish community; and

- Partnering with initiatives like LA vs Hate, which serves as an alternative reporting medium for victims of hate crimes and hate incidents and provides resource referrals for victims of these types of crimes and incidents. As part of the Department's collaborative efforts with LA vs Hate, Department personnel have already begun distributing LA vs. Hate victim's resource cards to all the Department's stations and Bureaus to provide to victims of hate crimes and hate incidents.

In reviewing the data and trends compiled for this report, the West Hollywood and Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff Stations were observed to have the highest number of reported hate crimes and hate incidents occurring within their station's areas. In response, each station has been engaged in ongoing measures to respond to increased antisemitic incidents occurring in their areas.

West Hollywood Station has increased patrols of Jewish synagogues and community centers throughout the day to increase visibility. These patrols are conducted by the station's Community Oriented Policing Team during daytime hours and the Entertainment Enforcement Team during nighttime hours. West Hollywood Station has also created and enacted a Jewish Community Safety Plan, which will enable expedient response in the event of a public safety emergency occurring at a Jewish synagogue or community center in the station's area. Community outreach efforts have also been undertaken with local Jewish community groups, serving as a means to help share information, and to foster positive working relationships between station personnel and members the Jewish community.

Malibu/Lost Hills Station has also increased patrols of Jewish synagogues and community centers, with specific focus during Sabbath times and High Holy Days. Many leaders of Jewish synagogues, community groups, and organizations in the station's policing area maintain consistent contact with station personnel, including the station's Captain. These close working relationships allow for quicker station response to safety concerns expressed by members of the Jewish community. The station also relays pertinent information received from local Jewish synagogues, community groups, and organizations to their respective city leaders, to help ensure concerns are properly communicated and addressed on multiple levels. Malibu/Lost Hills Station has also partnered with local Rabbis who provide recurrent briefings to station personnel on cultural awareness and cultural sensitivity issues.

### **ADDITIONAL MEASURES**

The Department is taking additional measures to address antisemitic hate crimes and hate incidents including:

- Increasing community outreach by partnering with Jewish community groups and organizations to further educate community members on hate crimes and hate incidents, to encourage reporting to law enforcement, and to create an open dialogue, in order to better understand unique concerns specific to members of the Jewish community;
- Incorporating information received from the Jewish community and specific indicators of antisemitic hate offenses into current Department hate crime trainings;
- Creating additional intervention opportunities to address the ideology of hate in our communities, with the intended purpose of curbing future instances of hate crimes and hate incidents from being committed;
- Working with Jewish community groups and organizations to create opportunities for training sponsored and presented by these groups for Department personnel, in order to increase cultural awareness amongst Department members;
- Continuing collaborative efforts with LA vs Hate on training opportunities for Department members, including an upcoming informational training video for law enforcement personnel;
- Expanding upon our work with the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, LA vs Hate, and local Jewish community groups and organizations to receive and share data, in order to better understand antisemitic hate crime trends occurring across Los Angeles County. This exchange of information will enable the Department to better identify locations or communities which may require additional response.
- Reviewing the Department's response times to calls for service to disturbances at places of worship, like synagogues and temples, to see if adjustments may be needed to further expedite law enforcement response to those locations;
- Modifying existing Departmental public hate crime and hate incident outreach, like the Department's annual Hate Crime Summit, to incorporate additional community groups and organizations than years past, and undergoing format modifications in order to become more effective in cultivating important community conversations from groups in attendance;



- Partnering with the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission and LA vs. Hate to create collaborative outreach efforts, like the modified annual Hate Crime Summit, or other types of outreach events;
- Updating the Department's hate crime and hate incidents policy to emphasize the importance of this issue; and
- Addressing all the recommendations made by the Office of Inspector General as related to hate crimes, to ensure that the Department is exploring all avenues to effectively counter these types of crime.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Department recognizes the importance of fostering consistent partnerships, communication, and collaborative efforts with these community groups and organizations, in order to help best address these concerns. The Department has additionally identified several areas it can expand upon in better addressing the increase of antisemitic offenses occurring in the County, and intends to work toward enacting these measures in order to provide a safer community for all residents of the County.

Should you have any questions, please contact Major Crimes Bureau Detective Jan Wong, at (323) 680-0742.

Sincerely,



ROBERT G. LUNA  
SHERIFF

