



PRESS RELEASE

Westminster Police Department
Darin Lenyi, Chief of Police

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

714-898-3315 | www.Westminster-CA.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 31, 2022

CONTACT: Sergeant Eddie Esqueda
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Date/Time: March 30, 2022/ 7:50 AM

ARRESTEE: Ernesto Martinez, 40 years old, resident of Santa Ana

CHARGES: California Penal Code 422.6(b) – Civil rights
California Penal Code 594(b) – Felony vandalism
California Penal Code 3455(a)(5) – Probation violation

WESTMINSTER, CA – On March 30, 2022, at approximately 7:50 AM, officers responded to Al Noor Foundation Mosque, located at 14522 Goldenwest Street, reference a vandalism that just occurred. The suspect, identified as Ernesto Martinez, attempted to flee the area on foot, but responding officers were able to locate him and detained him without incident. The investigation revealed Martinez arrived at the mosque and used a gallon-sized paint can to strike the front door multiple times. Martinez then threw paint from the paint can onto the glass entry doors and ground area near the front door of the mosque before fleeing. After being detained, Martinez made an inflammatory religious statement about why he vandalized the mosque. Martinez was also found to be on Post-Release Community Supervision and was arrested and booked into the Orange County Jail for the listed charges.

WPD detectives are continuing the investigation into the possible hate crime and urge anyone with additional information, or who may have witnessed this crime, to contact the Westminster Police Department at 714-548-3212, or Orange County Crime Stoppers at 1-855-TIP-OCCS or by logging on to www.occrimestoppers.org. Callers can remain anonymous.