



Los Angeles City Hall  
200 North Spring Street, Room 475  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone (213) 473-7002  
Facsimile (213) 680-7895

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 20, 2008

Contact: Ben Golombek  
(213) 595-2650

**Councilwoman Greuel, ADL Offer Reward in North Hollywood Hate Crime**  
*Orthodox Man Victim of Brutal Attack*

**LOS ANGELES** – Councilwoman Wendy Greuel and the Anti-Defamation League announced today that they are offering a reward of \$30,000 for information leading to the identification, apprehension, and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the brutal attack on an Orthodox Jewish man, 59, while he was taking a walk on the evening of April 12<sup>th</sup>, around 9:00 p.m. in North Hollywood. The LA City Council reward of \$25,000 was arranged by Councilwoman Greuel, in whose district the attack occurred. The ADL added \$5,000.

The victim was wearing a *kippah*, or head covering, worn by observant Jews. The perpetrators, two males in their 20's or 30's who had shaved heads, were wearing white t-shirts and spoke a language that was not English or Spanish. They hit the victim on the side of his head, knocked him down, and then continued to punch and kick him, yelling ethnic slurs. The attack took place on the corner of Bessemer St. and Bellaire Ave. in North Hollywood.

"Hate crimes not only injure the immediate victim, but they terrorize the whole community," said Councilwoman Wendy Greuel. "We must engage all of our resources to stop bigotry before it takes root. I am honored to partner with the Los Angeles Police Department, the Anti-Defamation League and local community members to fight prejudice."

"We are shocked and repulsed by this violent attack. Crimes such as this are not just targeted at individuals in the Jewish community, they are targeted at our entire community," said Amanda Susskind, Regional Director of the ADL. "Perpetrators of hate crimes send a message to their victims – and everyone else who shares the victim's characteristics – that we are not welcome or safe."

Susskind expressed concern especially in light of the recent spate of hate crimes in the San Fernando Valley, which included anti-Semitic graffiti and vandalism attacks in Tarzana in January, and incendiary devices launched at the Bernard Milken Jewish Community Campus and a private home in West Hills in February. The most recent Hate Crimes Report released by the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations for 2006 shows that Jews continue to be the most frequently targeted religious group, now accounting for 71% of religious-based hate crimes.

(more)

**Serving the Communities of**

**Lake View Terrace · La Tuna Canyon · North Hollywood · Shadow Hills · Sherman Oaks  
Studio City · Sunland · Sun Valley · Tujunga · Valley Village · Valley Glen · Van Nuys**



Los Angeles City Hall  
200 North Spring Street, Room 475  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

*Telephone* (213) 473-7002  
*Facsimile* (213) 680-7895

Anyone with information about this crime is urged to contact Detective Jones-Harris at LAPD North Hollywood Division, (818) 623-4016.

Councilwoman Greuel is President Pro Tempore of the Los Angeles City Council and represents the Second District in the Northeast San Fernando Valley. Through out her career, Councilwoman Greuel has made protecting civil rights a priority. As a high-ranking federal official at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, she fought for the equitable distribution of affordable housing in the Southland. In Mayor Tom Bradley administration she served as outreach director for the LGBT community. As Chair of the Los Angeles Transportation Committee, Councilwoman Greuel fought to increase access to public transit for African-American and Latino communities. Last Spring, the Anti-Defamation League honored Councilwoman Greuel with Civic Leader of the Year award.

**###**