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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, December 12, 2023
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City Attorney Zach Klein Announces Criminal Charges in Ohio State Jewish Student Center Vandalism Incident

City prosecutors file multiple charges against two individuals who vandalized the Hillel Building on Ohio State's campus in November

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced city prosecutors have filed multiple misdemeanor criminal charges against two individuals who allegedly vandalized the OSU Hillel Wexner Jewish Student Center in November. The defendants were charged with misdemeanor ethnic intimidation, theft, criminal trespass, and criminal mischief, penalties that could result in up to 180 days in jail and \$2,000 in fines.

“Hate has no home in Columbus. As City Attorney, I drew a line in the sand on the kinds of hate and bias-fueled attacks directed toward Jewish and Muslim populations that have been on the rise nationwide. That’s why we’re taking action to hold criminally accountable those who vandalized Ohio State’s Hillel Jewish Student Center. We will continue to stand with our Jewish friends and neighbors and all those who have increasingly become targets for violence and hate-fueled rhetoric, and we will not hesitate to aggressively prosecute these types of cases when they come across my desk,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein.

According to court documents, the defendants entered the OSU Hillel Wexner Jewish Student Center building on November 7, vandalized Israeli flags and shouted anti-Israel threats. The vandalism incident occurred just days after City Attorney Klein issued a statement where he drew a line in the sand on the nationwide rise in bias crime and hate-fueled rhetoric targeting Jewish, Muslim and LGBTQ+ people.