

SOLIDARITY

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a hate crimes law in the next state legislative session. Indiana is one of only five states that do not have such a law. Also, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) announced that it was offering \$2,500 in exchange for information relating to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrators of this act. Greg Maurer of the ADL stated that a 57% increase over the previous year of anti-Semitic acts have been documented in 2017. Congregation Shaarey Tefilla is working with local law enforcement and the FBI in their investigation. Work to remove the graffiti began Aug. 1st.

In another act of support, on August 2nd, twelve billboards of "LOVE" with a Star of David were installed from South Bend to Mooresville, Ind (see photo p. 12). *The Jewish Post & Opinion* spoke to Chris Iverson, Vice President and General Manager of Lamar Advertising, the company responsible for designing and installing the billboards. We asked him if someone had approached him and asked him to do this.

He responded "no", the company did this on its own initiative. They wanted to counteract the hateful images that the vandals had made at the synagogue. He said their job is to tell a story with images and pictures. After considering several designs, they picked this image to let the vandals and other like-minded people know that what was done is unacceptable in our community and elsewhere. They reached out to Outfront Media and Fairway Outdoor Advertising to help them accomplish their mission. Another report on this supportive act can be found at: <https://www.wishtv.com/news/local-news/billboard-shows-support-for-vandalized-carmel-synagogue/1339991382> ✦