**Religious Leaders Speak out on Anti-Semitic vandalism in West Rogers Park**

The Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago (CRLMC) is outraged about the desecration of a Synagogue and garages spray painted with Anti-Semitic messages in the West Rogers Park community of Chicago.  Once again Anti-Semitic expressions are visible in the Chicago area. Last November there was another desecration of a Jewish congregation in Lombard with broken windows along with the hate mongering spray-painted words

Such incidents are not vandalism...they are pure and simple hate crimes. It is enough that many minority religious congregations and organizations are having to increase security for their religious services and meetings. Those structures can be cleaned and repaired. It is more difficult to treat the shattered sense of security of those who are the subjects of such hate.

Treating such incidents as just vandalism… offers little comfort to our neighbors and friends who are the objects of this venom.

The CRLMC is comprised of the head religious leadership of practically every major religious tradition in the broader Chicago area. We speak with a unified moral voice on issues of the day; create a climate of better interfaith understanding and cooperation; and participates in programs which advance our work.

***EDITORS NOTE: Religious Leaders are available to speak to the media today on this subject.***

Please call Kevin Lampe to schedule interviews (312) 617-7280