



ERIK NASARENKO

VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

NEWS RELEASE



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Ventura Man Pleads Guilty to Felony Vandalism & Hate Crime Charges

VENTURA, Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that John Williams (DOB 03/04/93), of Ventura, has pled guilty to six felony counts and three misdemeanors in connection with vandalism involving swastikas on public and private property.

Williams changed his plea on August 19, 2025, admitting guilt to three felony counts of vandalism for damage exceeding \$400, three felony hate crime counts of placing a terrorizing symbol on private property, two misdemeanor counts of vandalism, and one misdemeanor count of possession of a stun gun by a convicted felon. He also admitted to the special allegations for committing the crimes while on parole and having a prior strike conviction.

On March 30, 2025, Ventura police officers responded to a report from a business regarding graffiti on their property. A swastika and the words "VC Pride" were tagged on a wall. As officers investigated, they received four additional reports of swastika graffiti found on both public and private properties in Ventura. Williams is seen on surveillance footage at two of the locations around the time the vandalism took place, and the sound of spray paint can be heard on the video before Williams is seen again fleeing the scene.

Officers located Williams and uncovered evidence connecting him to the vandalism. A further review of his social media activity revealed that he had been documenting graffiti at one location and posted images online while implying that someone else was responsible.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Hayley Moyer, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Major Crimes Unit, is prosecuting the case.

"Symbols of hate like the swastika are not simply relics of history, they remain dangerous reminders of violence and intolerance," Ms. Moyer said. "Our community will not tolerate acts that glorify Nazism or spread fear, and we will hold offenders accountable."

Williams is scheduled to be sentenced on September 17, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in courtroom 12 of the Ventura County Superior Court. He remains in custody with bail set at \$250,000.

Case: 2025007862

Defendant Information:

John Williams (DOB 03/04/93)

Ventura

Charges pled guilty to:

- (3 counts) PC 594(b)(1) – Vandalism over \$400
- (3 counts) PC 11411(c) – Terrorizing symbol on private property
- (2 counts) PC 594(b)(2)(A) – Vandalism not exceeding \$400
- PC 22610(a) – Possession, purchase, use of a stun-gun – person convicted of a felony

Special allegations admitted:

- PC 667S2 – Strike 2
- PC 1170(h)(3) – Prior serious or violent felony, prison eligibility
- CRC 4.421(b)(3) – The defendant has served a prior prison term
- CRC 4.421(b)(3) – The defendant was on parole

