



ERIK NASARENKO

VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

NEWS RELEASE



Follow us @VenturaCountyDA
[DA.VenturaCounty.gov](https://www.DA.VenturaCounty.gov)

Contact: Joey Buttitta
Title: Communications Manager/PIO
Phone: (805) 767-3400
Email: Joey.Buttitta@venturacounty.gov

Approved: SW
Date: October 9, 2026
Release No.: 26-143

Moorpark Man Charged with Hate Crime After Making Threatening Comments Toward Mosque Members

VENTURA, Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Anthony Casten (DOB 07/26/86), of Moorpark, has been charged with a hate crime for his actions targeting members of the Masjid Omar Muhammad Mosque in Moorpark. Casten is charged with one felony count of a violation of civil rights and one misdemeanor count of disturbing the peace by challenging to fight. He made his first court appearance for arraignment on October 8, 2026, and pled not guilty to all charges.

On September 23, 2026, around 7:00 p.m., Casten is accused of yelling outside the mosque and disturbing a prayer meeting. When members of the mosque came outside to see what was happening, Casten allegedly threatened to batter a mosque member and used derogatory slurs. Ventura County Sheriff's Department deputies contacted Casten a block away from the mosque and arrested him.

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

Casten is scheduled for an early disposition conference on December 8, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 12 of the Ventura County Superior Court. He is out of custody after posting \$20,000 bail.

Case #: 2026027566

Court #: 26CF101741

Defendant Information:

Anthony Casten (DOB 07/26/86)

Moorpark

Charges:

- PC 422.6(a) – Violation of civil rights
- PC 415(1) – Disturbing the peace by challenging to fight