



COUNTY OF FRESNO

Lisa A. Smittcamp
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 23, 2021

District Attorney's Public Integrity Unit Warns City of Fresno About Possible Brown Act Violations Related to Granite Park Dealings

Today, June 23, 2021, the Fresno County District Attorney's Public Integrity Unit issued a letter to the Fresno City Attorney to warn of allegations being made about potential Brown Act violations by members of the Fresno City Council related to dealings involving Granite Park. While it is important to stress that these are only allegations, the District Attorney's Office takes such matters seriously and will take all warranted steps to investigate Brown Act violations and any other wrongdoing alleged to have been committed by public officials.

A copy of the letter issued to the Fresno City Attorney is attached to this release.

Tips and investigation requests on matters involving public officials or public corruption can be sent to publicintegrity@fresnocountyca.gov.

Any inquiries about this release should be directed to FCDAMedia@fresnocountyca.gov.



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Douglas Sloan
City Attorney
City of Fresno
2600 Fresno Street, Room 2031
Fresno, CA 93721

Mr. Sloan,

This office has received allegations of potential law violations by members of the City Council while conducting business for the City of Fresno. These allegations include a potential violation of the Brown Act. Specifically, this allegation involves recent discussions among a majority of Councilmembers concerning forthcoming decisions on Granite Park, a potential violation of Government Code §54953(a).

As you are aware, the Brown Act requires that all meetings of a legislative body of a local agency be open and public. A "meeting", as defined in Government Code §54952.2, means any congregation of a majority of the members of a legislative body at the same time and location, to hear, discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body.

This is not the first allegation this office has received pertaining to a potential violation of the Brown Act that has involved Granite Park. We will continue to address these allegations. It is respectfully requested that any vote regarding Granite Park be postponed until our investigation is complete.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Smittcamp". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa Smittcamp
District Attorney

Cc: Councilmembers Esmeralda Soria, Mike Karbassi, Miguel Arias, Tyler Maxwell, Luis Chavez, Garry Bredefeld, Nelson Esparza; Mayor, Jerry Dyer; City Manager, Thomas Esqueda