



OCTOBER

COUNTY OF FRESNO

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
AWARENESS MONTH

LISA A. SMITTCAMP  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 8, 2021

### **DISTRICT ATTORNEY CONCLUDES THERE IS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO PURSUE MISAPPROPRIATION CHARGES AGAINST PARLIER CITY EMPLOYEE ROSALIA SOLIS**

Today, October 8, 2021, the Fresno County District Attorney's Office declined to file misappropriation of public money charges against Rosalia Solis related to the disappearance of cash at the Parlier Police Department.

In reviewing cases for the filing of criminal charges, prosecutors are required to follow certain ethical considerations. Charges may only be filed when: (1) there has been a complete investigation and thorough consideration of all pertinent data; (2) there is legally sufficient, admissible evidence of a corpus delicti; (3) there is legally sufficient, admissible evidence of the accused's identity as the perpetrator of the crime; and (4) the prosecutor has considered the probability of conviction by an objective factfinder hearing the admissible evidence.

To prosecute Ms. Solis for the crime of misappropriation of public money, the prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that it was Ms. Solis who, being a person charged with the receipt, safekeeping, transfer, or disbursement of public moneys, and without authority of law, misappropriated public money for her own use or the use of another.

After carefully reviewing the investigative reports, witness statements and the existing documentation, the Fresno County District Attorney's Office has reached the legal conclusion that the prosecution cannot prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Ms. Solis stole or misappropriated the missing money. Several important factors weighed heavily in this determination, including a lack of record keeping relating to the money being taken-in by the Parlier Police Department, and the practice of keeping money in an unsecured location that is accessible to other employees. As a result, misappropriation of public money charges will not be filed in this case.

In making this decision, District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp stated, "Unfortunately, the City of Parlier is well known for using antiquated record keeping methods and suffers from organizational shortcomings that put taxpayer money at risk. In this specific case, these practices made it impossible for our office to charge Ms. Solis, or any other person, with misappropriating public funds. To preserve the public trust, I would urge Parlier officials to make the changes necessary to prevent history from repeating itself."

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office will have no further comment on this matter.

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