



COUNTY OF FRESNO

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fresno County District Attorney's Office Dismisses Case Against City of Fresno Council President Nelson Esparza

Today, December 5th, 2022, the Fresno County District Attorney's Office moved to dismiss the case of attempted extortion against Nelson Esparza. This decision follows a statement made by Mr. Esparza acknowledging his actions in the events leading up to the case, and why the allegations had to be pursued by the District Attorney's Office. Based on the new discovery recently provided by Mr. Esparza, after the preliminary hearing, this decision was made in the interest of justice.

It is important to remember that, oftentimes, the aim of the Public Integrity Unit of the District Attorney's Office is as much about compliance as it is about prosecution. It is decidedly not about influencing policy or deciding who is in office. While Mr. Esparza claims he had good intentions during his interaction with former City Attorney Doug Sloan, good intentions do not relieve our elected officials of following the law. The District Attorney's Office hopes that Mr. Esparza has learned from this experience and can move forward a better Councilman, to continue to serve his constituents with diligence and integrity.
