



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FRESNO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY DEMANDS LISA SMITTCAMP RESIGN FROM OFFICE TO END POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND CORRUPT ABUSE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

**FRESNO, CA** – Yesterday, District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp's office dismissed all charges against Councilmember Nelson Esparza less than six months after weaponizing her office's public resources for partisan and political attacks. While we applaud the necessary dismissal in the interest of reducing the waste of resources and true justice, we acknowledge the damage and harassment it has caused to a member of our party. Today she continues to defend this malicious prosecution through a media smear campaign instead of acknowledging that the justice system she is supposed to honor worked. We continue to call for a state investigation into District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp's breach of her official and ethical duties. Our residents of Fresno County deserve an honest and ethical District Attorney to solve real crimes in our community.

With this case, District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp proves that she is interested in using her office to harass and embarrass elected officials who are not aligned with her politics and the Republican party. Public funds were expended to prosecute this case by paid staff time, judicial time, and paid investigators. The public needs to hold her accountable for this waste.

For these reasons, the Democratic Party demands that Lisa Smittcamp resign and allow a District Attorney with true integrity to replace her.

"Lisa Smittcamp created the Public Integrity Unit in 2015 under the guise that it would hold public officials accountable," said Fresno County Democratic Party's Chair Ruben Zarate. "After years of going after high profile elected Democrats and losing case after case, the original intent of the Public Integrity Unit was a lie. Smittcamp instead of bringing integrity has degraded her office by utilizing public resources to further her political agenda and has made her office highly polarized, it is time for her to step down."

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