



COUNTY OF FRESNO

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NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 18, 2022

Fresno County District Attorney Announces Charges Against Fresno City Councilman Nelson Esparza for Attempted Extortion

Today, July 18, 2022, Nelson Orlando Esparza (31, of Fresno) was charged in a Felony Complaint with one (1) count of Attempted Extortion and one (1) count of attempting to violate Section 803 of the Fresno City Charter, the Fresno County District Attorney's Office has announced.

Councilmember Esparza is alleged to have threatened the employment of former Fresno City Attorney Douglas Sloan, implying that Sloan would be fired unless he agreed to work strictly for the Council majority.

If convicted of this charge, Councilmember Esparza faces potential fines, jail time, or up to 3 years imprisonment in state prison.

This matter will be prosecuted by Senior Deputy District Attorney Victor Lai with the Fresno County District Attorney's Public Integrity Unit.

With charges now pending, the Fresno County District Attorney's Office will have no further comment at this time.

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