



COUNTY OF FRESNO

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NEWS RELEASE
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THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE OFFERS A REMINDER ABOUT ITS PUBLIC INTEGRITY UNIT

As a reminder to our community, the mission of the District Attorney's Public Integrity Unit is to investigate and prosecute cases involving public officials or employees who commit crimes relating to their official duties. This has not changed since the unit's inception in 2015. (<https://abc30.com/fresno-county-political-corruption-da-lisa-smittcamp/702007/>).

Not every crime committed by a public official or employee falls within this mission – only crimes that are committed relating to their official duties. When crimes of a different nature are committed by public officials or employees, those cases are handled by the appropriate unit within the District Attorney's Office.

Investigations that the Public Integrity Unit undertakes are initiated by submissions to the Public Integrity Unit, via a procedure outlined on our website (<https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/district-attorney/criminal-divisions/public-integrity-unit>). Once received, submissions are evaluated for appropriateness of investigation, which includes various considerations, such as: Is a possible crime being alleged? Are there sufficient facts alleged to initiate an investigation?

It is important to note that these submissions are confidential, and the Public Integrity Unit does not routinely publicize when and whether investigations are opened or closed. However, and unfortunately, the Fresno County District Attorney's Office has noticed an increase in the use of our Public Integrity Unit complaint process by members of our community, of all political stripes, to advance their own personal objectives or to attack perceived opponents.

Despite this reality, we are confident that the Public Integrity Unit operates independent of partisan politics, and its filing decisions are based solely on the facts of the case, the applicable law, and our ability to prove the case beyond a reasonable doubt. Furthermore, we welcome any investigation into the practices of our Public Integrity Unit.
