



COUNTY OF FRESNO

Lisa A. Smittcamp
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 17, 2021

Former Fowler City Manager David Lawrence Elias Sentenced on Charges of Misappropriating Public Money

Today, May 17, 2021, former Fowler City Manager David Lawrence Elias (59, of Clovis) was sentenced on two (2) Felony counts of Misappropriation of Public Moneys by a Public Officer, the Fresno County District Attorney's Office has announced.

Mr. Elias was charged by the District Attorney's Public Integrity Unit in November of 2017 when an investigation revealed that Elias, while serving as City Manager for the City of Fowler, used city issued credit cards for personal purchases such as event tickets, travel expenses, automobile tires, Starbucks gift cards, and iTunes. Mr. Elias also used the city issued credit card for travel expenses after he had received an advance per diem check from the city for such expenses.

After the sentencing, District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp stated, "One of the purposes of the Public Integrity Unit at the Fresno County District Attorney's Office is to ensure that public employees, as well as elected and appointed officials who serve the Fresno County communities, are held accountable for every taxpayer penny they spend.

"All expenditures made by those working in the public sector need to be authorized by law. These monies are intended to be used for the benefit of the community at large, not the individual who is elected or appointed. This case should serve as a reminder that all government employees have a duty to safeguard taxpayer dollars and public funds. Violations of these standards will not be tolerated.

"I urge everyone to report suspected acts of illegal use of public funds to the District Attorney's Office. Tips and investigation requests can be sent to publicintegrity@fresnocountyca.gov"

As part of the sentence handed down today, Mr. Elias was placed on Formal Probation for two (2) years and was ordered to serve two hundred and seventy (270) days on the Electronic Monitor. Mr. Elias was also ordered to pay \$34,854.00 in restitution to the City of Fowler.

Any inquiries about this release should be directed to FCDAMedia@fresnocountyca.gov.

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