



COUNTY OF FRESNO

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DISTRICT ATTORNEY DECLINES TO FILE CHARGES AGAINST TERRENCE SLATIC AS WELL AS FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD JUVENILE SUSPECT

Today, February 15, 2019, the Fresno County District Attorney's Office declined to file a battery charge against Fresno Unified School Board member Terrence Slatic, as well as a criminal threats charge against an unnamed fifteen-year-old juvenile suspect, related to the January 11th incident on the campus of Bullard High School.

In reviewing cases for the filing of criminal charges, Prosecutors are required to follow certain ethical considerations. We may only file charges if: (1) there has been a complete investigation and thorough consideration of all pertinent data, (2) there is legally sufficient, admissible evidence of a corpus delicti, (3) there is legally sufficient, admissible evidence of the accused's identity as the perpetrator of the crime, and (4) the prosecutor has considered the probability of conviction by an objective factfinder hearing the admissible evidence.

The investigative reports, the audio and video-recorded witness statements, and the surveillance video recording that captured the physical altercation were reviewed and evaluated.

In order to prosecute Mr. Slatic for the crime of battery, the prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Mr. Slatic touched the juvenile in a harmful or offensive manner, AND that Mr. Slatic did not act in self-defense or in defense of someone else. The juvenile's threat to Mr. Slatic, in conjunction with the recorded video and statements of witnesses, resulted in the legal conclusion that the prosecution would not be able to disprove that Mr. Slatic acted in self-defense.

In order to prosecute the unnamed fifteen-year-old juvenile for the crime of criminal threats, the prosecution must prove that the juvenile threatened to kill or cause great bodily injury to Mr. Slatic, AND that the threat caused Mr. Slatic to be in sustained fear for his safety. Although the juvenile threatened Mr. Slatic, there was no evidence that Mr. Slatic was in sustained fear, leading to the legal conclusion that the prosecution would not be able to prove this crime beyond a reasonable doubt.

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