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PRESS RELEASE

Court Grants Request by City of Downey for Permanent Restraining Order Against Disruptive and Threatening Speaker

Downey, CA, February 01, 2024: The Los Angeles County Superior Court ruled in favor of the City of Downey in the case of *City of Downey v. Armando Herman*. The City sought a restraining order against Mr. Herman for his escalating, disruptive, and threatening conduct during City Council meetings. Based on the evidence presented, the Court found that Mr. Herman had engaged in a course of conduct that would place a reasonable person in fear for their safety and served no legitimate purpose, as defined by state law. The restraining order prohibits Mr. Herman's physical attendance at City meetings. It takes effect immediately and remains effective for a period of three years, subject to renewal.

Mayor Mario Trujillo stated, "The City of Downey is pleased with the Court's ruling today because it protects Downey City Councilmembers from threats of workplace violence and abusive conduct. To effectively conduct the business of the public, cities cannot tolerate behavior of this type by members of the public in attendance at city council meetings. Such disruptive behaviors limit public engagement and create unsafe environments, contradicting the City's commitment to maintaining order and fostering a community where everyone feels heard, and their concerns are addressed fairly, safely, and justly."

"The decision made by the Court allows us to continue doing the community's work in a safe and professional manner," stated Mayor Pro Tem Hector Sosa.

Councilmember Claudia M. Frometa added, "I am grateful for the work of our City Attorney. I am also thankful to Judge Randall Pacheco, who presided over this case and agreed that this type of threatening behavior in the name of free speech is an assault on our freedoms and a reasonable threat to our personal safety. The type of threats, intimidation, and verbal assaults we city officials endure in the name of free speech cannot continue to be tolerated."

Councilmember Claudia M. Frometa, former Mayor, provided testimony at the hearing. Mayor Trujillo and Mayor Pro Tem Sosa were also available as additional witnesses.

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