



NEWS RELEASE
City of Chico
www.chicoca.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 29, 2023

City Obtains Sanctions for Meritless Litigation

Chico, CA – (Mar. 29, 2023) – On August 26, 2022, Chicoans Against Financial Mismanagement – No On Measure H (“CAFM-NOMH”) and Karl Ory (collectively, “Petitioners”) filed a petition in Butte County Superior Court, alleging that the City of Chico and its Elections Official, Deborah Presson, improperly rejected an argument against Measure H submitted by CAFM-NOMH. On September 15, 2022, Judge Michael P. Candela denied all relief sought by Petitioners because the Elections Code requires, among other things, that CAFM-NOMH identify itself when submitting its argument to the City, which it did not do.

The Elections Code clearly states that submissions failing to meet its requirements are to be rejected. Nonetheless, Petitioners filed a lawsuit seeking to force the City to accept their defective submission. To recover its attorneys’ fees incurred with respect to this meritless lawsuit, the City filed a motion for sanctions against Petitioners. Today, the Butte County Superior Court granted the City’s motion, awarding it \$36,672.63 in sanctions against Petitioners. “This demonstrates that the City of Chico will defend itself against frivolous lawsuits that waste taxpayer dollars,” said Mayor Andrew Coolidge.

For more information, please contact:

City Manager: Mark Sorensen, 530-896-7200, mark.sorensen@chicoca.gov

###