



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 5, 2021**

**NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:**

Katie Casey, Communications Manager  
(805) 816-4330 | [katie.casey@oxnard.org](mailto:katie.casey@oxnard.org)

**Court Rules Against and Sanctions City Treasurer Phillip Molina**

OXNARD, Calif. – A superior court judge denied a request from Oxnard City Treasurer Phillip Molina demanding unredacted versions of an investigator's personnel report into employee complaints against Molina. Molina also sought transcribed statements of witnesses interviewed by the investigator.

The judge stated that the information Molina seeks is not discoverable in this action and issued monetary sanctions of \$1,050 to be paid by Molina. Molina's lawsuit challenges the ordinance and resolutions adopted unanimously by the City Council in May of 2020, removing the Treasurer's administrative duties.

In early 2020, the investigator released an 83-page report based upon interviews of 41 City employees and a comprehensive review of dozens of documents and emails. The report's Independent Findings determined that Molina behaved inappropriately by:

- Interfering with the investigation by sending emails to staff about the ongoing investigation and inappropriately discussing it with staff members;
- Making inappropriate, impermissible comments regarding female employees' appearance, attire, and role within the workplace;
- Accusing and improperly investigating an employee of theft when no theft occurred;
- Sending misleading emails to dozens of people to bully City employees and enhance Molina's image at the expense of employees, and accusing employees of misconduct with no basis in fact;
- Acting outside the scope of his duties as the City Treasurer and injecting himself into issues involving both the Finance and Public Works Departments without the authority to do so.

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