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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by JAK
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Re: Public Integrity Conviction: People v. Scot Kimble: BM947097A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction in a misdemeanor case involving a public official knowingly submitting false documents today. On February 28, 2020, a misdemeanor charge of Government Code Section 6203(a) was filed against current Arvin Police Department Chief Scot Kimble. The charge alleged that Kimble, during his previous position as the Chief of Police at the McFarland Police Department in 2016, presented and delivered writings he knew to be false, resulting in improper distribution of City funds to officers under his command. On February 28, 2020, Kimble entered a no contest plea to the charged offense, pursuant to an agreement where he would resign his position as Chief of the Arvin Police Department, be placed on three years probation, and be ordered to provide restitution in the amount of \$1,075.47 to the City of McFarland

The charge alleged that, as Chief of the McFarland Police Department, Kimble misappropriated McFarland City funds when he intentionally added unearned hours to an officer's payroll time sheets in consideration for the officer's work remodeling portions of Kimble's home. The erroneous records were submitted during the pay periods of July 3-16 and September 12-24, 2016. Kimble submitted and approved these records to the McFarland City Finance Department for payment to the officer. The total cost to the City of McFarland for these two incidents was \$745.20.

Kimble further assigned the officer to attend training courses out of Kern County during a two-week period during September of 2016, with the intent of having the officer complete construction work on Kimble's personal home during the evenings, requiring 25 miles of travel in a city-owned vehicle each way between Kimble's home and the training center. The cost to the City of McFarland relating to the officer's unnecessary travel over the two-week period was \$229.50.

Additionally, Kimble asked another officer to leave his duty assignment and use a city police vehicle to respond to Kimble's personal home in Kern County for assistance unloading Kimble's personal household goods from a truck into his home. The cost to the City of McFarland for this incident was tabulated to be \$100.77.

The case resolved by means of a plea agreement that involves Scot Kimble submitting his resignation as Chief of Police of the Arvin Police Department on February 28, 2020, to be effective March 13, 2020. Additionally, the agreement required Kimble to enter a plea of guilty or no contest to the charged offense of being a public official who willfully submitted records knowing that they were false. The restitution amount of \$1075.47 covers the amount of loss to the City of McFarland that resulted from all of the above noted actions of Kimble.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented that "Chiefs of Police hold a position of trust in our community. The unlawful use of a trusted position for personal gain at the expense of taxpayers will be met with criminal charges. Today's conviction makes clear that Kimble's actions in this case make him unfit for duty as a Chief of Police in our community."