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## News Release

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(CUDAHY, CA) - The City of Cudahy values transparency and freedom of expression, and continues to rebuild trust as it moves forward to create progress for all of its residents.

On March 11, 2019, the Honorable Mary H. Strobel dismissed with prejudice a Petition for a Writ of Mandate and Complaint alleging that four (4) members of the Cudahy City Council met in secret, and violated the state's open meeting laws when they voted in May, 2018, to remove a fellow council member for failing to attend City Council meetings.

The Petitioner is an unincorporated association known as Cudahy Citizens Challenging Council Corruption. The Defendants/Respondents named in the Petition were the City of Cudahy, Councilmember Chris Garcia, and former Councilmembers Christian Hernandez, Cristian Markovich and Baru Sanchez.

The Court held that the Petition failed to demonstrate that there was a public interest being protected, but rather the Petition had the intent to personally benefit the Councilmember removed from office.

"Our residents should feel proud that a Court of Law found that our City acted responsibly, and consistent with the law. We expect this ruling will instill renewed trust and confidence in our local government, and dispel the misplaced negative perception Cudahy has had to endure," said Mayor Jose Gonzalez.

"This is a strong vindication of the actions taken by the City Council, and clearly show that the claims were frivolously brought by a fraudulent association that leveled baseless accusations of corruption so often made against our community," remarked Councilmember Chris Garcia.

Vice-Mayor Elizabeth Alcantar stated that she appreciates Judge Strobel's thoughtful opinion, and believes it will help usher in a new era of accountability and positive leadership for the City of Cudahy.