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MEDIA STATEMENT

Fresno Unified Recovers Millions as Target in Check Fraud Ring

Fresno Unified uncovered earlier this year that it was a target of check fraud. The fraud involved attempts to cash unauthorized checks from Fresno Unified to one of its vendors. Fresno Unified has been fully cooperative with law enforcement and investigative agencies throughout this process. Not long after learning of the fraud, the Department of Homeland Security reached out to confirm they had found this fraud was a part of a larger check fraud ring.

The investigation revealed that several checks totaling about \$7 million were fraudulently attempted. Fortunately, through swift action, about \$4 million in funds were prevented from being lost. To date, some of the stolen funds have already been recovered, and we anticipate that all remaining funds will be fully recovered in due time.

In order to avoid compromising any ongoing investigations or the potential recovery of additional funds, Fresno Unified has maintained strict confidentiality about this matter until now. The safety and integrity of our financial operations remain a top priority, and we continue to work closely with all investigative bodies to resolve the situation.

Fresno Unified has investigated internally, revisiting our controls and processes to ensure we are keeping up with the ever-changing landscape of fraud.

We also wish to clarify that while the County of Fresno is a signatory on our checks, they had no involvement in this fraud and bear no responsibility for the actions that took place. The County has assisted the district since the beginning of the investigation to ensure the potential recovery of funds.

Fresno Unified remains committed to upholding the trust and confidence of the communities we serve.

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