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## Press Release

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### **City Elects to Move Forward: Continues to Encourage Awareness and Adherence to Local Laws**

**Modesto, CA, August 11, 2025-** On June 14, 2025, the City of Modesto and the Modesto Police Department (MPD) took a proactive approach to ensure public safety during two separate demonstrations: the “Ice Out Mass Mobilization Protests” and the “No Kings- National Day of Defiance.” The City provided police presence to ensure the protection of the constitutional rights of all individuals in our community. MPD maintained a professional and visible presence while enforcing the laws designed to protect the safety of all participants, residents, and businesses of Modesto.

This included taking a zero-tolerance approach to violence, destruction of property, and violations of the law. Five individuals were arrested for violating the Modesto Municipal Code section 4-23.02 - Restrictions on use of specified items during public assembly, specifically section (a)(13), which prohibits wearing face coverings at public assemblies with the intent to conceal identity.

The City of Modesto has the clear legal authority to enact and enforce local ordinances that prioritize public safety. Proactive enforcement of reasonable, constitutional laws is essential to maintaining community safety.

Although MPD acted lawfully and appropriately, the City Attorney's Office has decided not to file criminal charges in connection with the June 14 face-covering violations. This decision reflects the City's desire to use this moment as an opportunity for education and to encourage greater community cooperation with local ordinances moving forward. It also allows the Community Police Review Board (CPRB) the space to conduct a thoughtful review of the ordinance.

The CPRB was created to foster strong relationships and greater trust between our local law enforcement and the community. The City values its role in this process and appreciates its engagement in this important policy discussion. In the future, we encourage all protest organizers and community members to familiarize themselves with applicable laws and work collaboratively with the City to ensure safe, lawful, and productive public demonstrations.

Through mutual respect, transparency, and cooperation, we can continue building a community where all voices can be expressed—peacefully, lawfully, and safely.

*End*