



PRESS RELEASE

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COSTA MESA CITY COUNCILMEMBER JIM RIGHEIMER AND FORMER COSTA MESA CITY COUNCILMEMBER STEVE MENSINGER REACH \$607,500 SETTLEMENT IN POLICE UNION MISCONDUCT CASE

Steve Mensinger, Jim Righeimer and Lene Righeimer announce the settlement of their civil case against the Costa Mesa Police Association and the law firm it hired for alleged union harassment, intimidation, malicious persecution and other illegal acts

According to the terms of the settlement, the union's law firm, Lackie, Dammeier, McGill & Ethir, will pay \$500,000.00 on behalf of itself and \$100,000.00 on behalf of the Costa Mesa Police Association. The Costa Mesa Police Association will make an additional payment in the amount of \$7,500.00.

The lawsuit alleged that the union, their law firm and a private investigator engaged in a scheme to illegally track Mensinger using a GPS device, falsely accuse Jim Righeimer of driving under the influence, and assault Lene Righeimer

After winning an appeal, as well as multiple trial court rulings that the conduct of the Costa Mesa Police Association and their law firm were not "protected speech," and exposing the truth about their illegal conduct, and receiving compensation for their injuries and to punish these entities, hopefully preventing them from engaging in such devious conduct in the future, Mensinger and the Righimers are ready to put this litigation and unfortunate saga behind them so that they, the City of Costa Mesa, and its citizens, can focus on improving the lives of Costa Mesa's residents.

Jim Righeimer said "Sometimes, it's necessary to take a stand against fraud and misconduct, especially when it's occurring at the hands of law enforcement."

Steve Mensinger echoed, "this settlement confirms that we have achieved our objectives of: accountability, transparency and compensation."

Their attorney, Vince Finaldi, stated “The police association and law firm are not paying over a half-million dollars because they didn’t do anything wrong. The settlement is their acknowledgement of the wrongfulness of their conduct towards my clients. Now, the City of Costa Mesa can get back to business, and hopefully its citizens demand an internal investigation as to why this occurred in the first place, allowing it to take steps to prevent it from occurring in the future.”

[Manly, Stewart & Finaldi](#) is California’s leading law firm representing child victims of sexual abuse. The firm has represented more than 150 victims of clergy sexual abuse in California and hundreds of others throughout the United States. The firm also represented plaintiffs in the \$140,000,000 settlement against LAUSD in the Miramonte case, the largest sex abuse settlement against a School District in the US. The firm currently represents more than 180 alleged victims of former Michigan State University and U.S. Women’s Gymnastics Olympic Team doctor Larry Nassar. Michigan State University has settled this case for \$500,000,000, this is the largest settlement of any personal injury case against a University.