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Kern County District Attorney's Office Responds To Comments of Supervisor Leticia Perez

(Bakersfield) – On Monday, October 21, 2024, Leticia Perez, a member of the Kern County Board of Supervisors, announced at a meeting of the Board that investigators with the Kern County District Attorney's Office had sought consent to enter and photograph portions of the Kern County Administrative Building, including specifically areas currently in use by Supervisor Perez and/or her staff.

Requesting consent by persons authorized to grant it prior to engaging in a search is a commonly used and widely accepted practice for Investigators. Voluntary consent from authorized persons to allow a search has long been recognized by the United States Supreme Court as an exception to search warrant requirements.

It is common for investigators to request consent to conduct searches as part of a pending investigation. When parties with access to information or evidence relevant to a criminal investigation decline to voluntarily consent to a search, the next step in an investigation is often to seek judicial authorization to conduct the search. Such judicial authorization takes the form of a search warrant, which, when properly based on probable cause and approved by a judge, gives investigators the authority to conduct a search even when a party or parties decline to voluntarily consent to a search.

The Public Integrity Unit of the District Attorney's Office investigates potential criminal violations, including those related to elected officials. The Public Integrity Unit will continue to use lawful investigative avenues and tools to ensure that relevant evidence of potential violations is obtained and secured.

The District Attorney's Office declines to comment further about the nature or focus of this pending investigation.