

NEWS RELEASE

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Santa Clara City Councilmember Charged with Perjury for Lying to Civil Grand Jury

A criminal grand jury has indicted Santa Clara City Councilmember Anthony Becker for lying to the Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury. The councilman falsely denied to the civil grand jury leaking a report critical of what that oversight body determined was an unethical relationship between several City Council members, including Becker, and the San Francisco 49ers. Such perjury is a felony.

Becker leaked the then-secret Civil Grand Jury report - entitled "Unsportsmanlike Conduct: Santa Clara City Council" - to Rahul Chandhok, who was at the time the professional football team's Chief Communications & Public Affairs Officer. The leak of the confidential document came several days before it was due to be published. Evidence also shows that the councilperson leaked the report to a small, local media outlet.

Becker was also charged with a misdemeanor for violating his duty to keep the draft report confidential. His arraignment is scheduled for Monday at 9 a.m. in Dept. 26 at the Hall of Justice in San Jose. If convicted of perjury, Becker faces a maximum sentence of four years in County Jail.

"Councilmember Becker violated the public's trust," DA Jeff Rosen said. "That an elected official would commit perjury and lie under oath before the grand jury strikes at the very heart of our justice system and requires accountability."

On October 5, 2022, the City of Santa Clara was provided with a confidential draft copy of the Civil Grand Jury's report. The report was scheduled for release on October 10, 2022. On October 7, news reports revealed details of the grand jury's report with at least one outlet publishing a complete copy of the draft report.

The 49ers have bankrolled Becker's political career in recent years. In total, the 49ers provided over \$3.2 million through independent expenditure committees to benefit Becker's 2020 successful city council campaign and his failed 2022 mayoral bid.

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