



**OFFICE OF THE
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COUNTY OF NEVADA**



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DATE: May 2, 2026
TO: PRESS RELEASE
FROM: District Attorney Jesse Wilson
RE: FSC case update

The Nevada County District Attorney's Office announces that on April 30, 2026, a Nevada County criminal grand jury returned a true bill indicting Jamie Jones, who currently appears to serve as Executive Director of the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County, and Christopher Wackerly, who is listed as the organization's Director of Field Operations, on more than two dozen felony charges.

The indictment includes charges of embezzlement, grand theft, money laundering, mortgage fraud, insurance fraud, perjury, forgery, and related offenses, along with special allegations that the conduct involved a pattern of related felony activity resulting in losses exceeding \$100,000, an aggravated white-collar crime enhancement under California law.

This indictment follows a nearly two-year investigation. From the outset, our office committed to conducting a thorough, methodical, and impartial review of the evidence. While we recognize the significant public interest in this matter, we did not, and will not, compromise the integrity of the investigation to accelerate timelines based on public curiosity or internal preference. Our responsibility is to follow the evidence and get it right.

The grand jury found probable cause to believe that, over an approximately six-year period, the defendants engaged in a significant misappropriation of taxpayer funds. These funds were entrusted to the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County for critical fire prevention and community safety purposes, as well as other publicly funded programs and services. Additional alleged conduct includes misuse of public benefits, fraudulent representations to government agencies, and financial transactions alleged to conceal proceeds of criminal activity.

“The evidence presented to the grand jury indicates a flagrant misuse of taxpayer funds for personal enrichment and the use of organizational accounts as if they were personal accounts. That said, this is an indictment, not a conviction, and the defendants are entitled to the presumption of innocence as this case moves forward in court.” – District Attorney Jesse Wilson

What began as an inquiry into whether grant funds were being misappropriated expanded significantly as investigators uncovered additional alleged criminal conduct, including complex financial activity involving multiple public funding sources. The breadth and scope of the allegations contributed to the length of the investigation.

We anticipate that both defendants will be arraigned on these charges in the coming week.

We also want to recognize and thank our partners at the California Department of Justice and our own District Attorney's Office Investigative Unit, whose diligence and professionalism were critical in conducting the extensive work necessary to bring this case forward.

As with all criminal proceedings at this stage, these charges are allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

The case was presented to the criminal grand jury by District Attorney Jesse Wilson and Deputy District Attorney Isaac Silverman.



Jesse Wilson
District Attorney



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