



**DATE:** December 8, 2025

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** City Attorney's Office

**SUBJECT:** *Christopher Cordova v. City, et al.*,  
Case No. 25-cv-02723-CYC

This memorandum is to apprise you of the facts alleged in the above-referenced case as you consider the claims made against the involved officers.

#### **NATURE OF THE CASE**

Plaintiff, Christopher Cordova, filed an action in the District Court for the District of Colorado against Officers Kristopher Czajkowski, Vanessa Mendoza, Gunnar Fisk and the City of Colorado Springs ("City"). Plaintiff asserts malicious prosecution, First Amendment retaliation, and unlawful arrest claims under Colorado Constitution against the officers and a federal First Amendment claim against the City.

The Complaint alleges Plaintiff was a "First Amendment Auditor" who, in the early morning hours of September 2, 2023, was arrested for filming. According to the Complaint, an ambulance arrived and Officer Czajkowski ordered Cordova and two other auditors to move locations. Plaintiff claims he complied with commands and moved locations. Nevertheless, Plaintiff claims he was arrested by Officer Mendoza for Interference. He also claims Officer Fisk explained the arrest by stating Plaintiff and the other auditors were filming officers. Plaintiff was acquitted at trial.

Plaintiff alleges the Colorado Springs Police Department has a policy which requires First Amendment auditors to be fingerprinted and photographed, while permitting officers to exercise discretion to fingerprint and photograph others arrested for crimes.

Police reports and body-worn camera footage reflect that Plaintiff, along with two others who filmed the officers, were repeatedly warned and ordered to move locations, and failed to do so. One of the other auditors was convicted of Interference in a separate trial and the other auditor pled guilty.

Plaintiff seeks compensatory damages, punitive damages, declaratory relief, and an attorney's fees award.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Civil Action Investigation Committee met on November 5, 2025 and recommended City Council acknowledge representation for Officers Kristopher Czajkowski, Vanessa Mendoza and Gunnar Fisk as required by the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act and the Liability of Peace Officers Act. The officers were acting in the course and scope of their employment, and in good faith during the incident. As usual, City Council should reserve the right to decline payment of any award of punitive damages.