



# City of Placentia

## Press Release

***For Immediate Release***  
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### **SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS MADE IN THE RECOVERY OF EMBEZZLED FUNDS**

**Placentia, CA** – The City of Placentia has now recovered the majority of the public funds allegedly embezzled by its former Finance Services Manager.

According to a court ruling on Friday, July 22, 2016, \$2,604,539.26 will be returned to the City of Placentia. These are funds the Orange County District Attorney's Office and the City have recovered as part of the ongoing embezzlement investigation. About \$3.16 million has now been returned to the City. In addition to these funds, the City is also processing a \$1 million crime bond insurance policy.

More than \$4 million of the \$5.16 million allegedly embezzled will be back in City coffers after the crime bond insurance policy is processed. The City continues to utilize any and all available actions to recover the remaining funds.

"Placentia is grateful for the District Attorney's exhaustive work to recover and return the stolen funds to the City and taxpayers of Placentia. The recovery of the majority of funds within such a short timeframe demonstrates the power of the partnership between our two agencies. We will continue to remain steadfast in recovering the remaining stolen funds for the residents of Placentia and bring justice to those responsible," Placentia City Administrator Damien Arrula said.

Placentia's former Finance Services Manager Michael Nguyen is standing trial for allegedly sending a number of unauthorized wire transfers between January 27, 2014 and April 12, 2016 totaling \$5.16 million to various private accounts bypassing internal and external controls.

Since discovering Nguyen's activities in April, new procedures and policies have been implemented by the City to strengthen accounting systems in a manner that far exceed government standards. In addition, a new fraud hotline has been established for reporting suspected cases of fraud, waste or abuse by the City, its employees, contractors or vendors.

"Placentia is fully committed to recovering all the funds lost and restoring the public's trust in the City's business practices and operations," Mayor Jeremy Yamaguchi said.

For more information please visit [www.Placentia.org/DAInvestigation](http://www.Placentia.org/DAInvestigation).

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