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PRESS RELEASE

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CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SECURES \$200,000 SETTLEMENT IN ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST FLAVORED TOBACCO RETAILERS

SAN DIEGO — The San Diego City Attorney's Office has reached a settlement in its civil enforcement action under the Unfair Competition Law (UCL) against Yazan R. Muowahid and several affiliated vape retailers for unlawfully selling flavored tobacco products. The action was brought on behalf of the People of the State of California.

The lawsuit was filed in 2024 to address ongoing public health concerns associated with flavored tobacco products, which remain a key driver of youth nicotine addiction. The complaint alleged that the defendants continued selling flavored tobacco in clear violation of California Health & Safety Code 104559.5 and San Diego Municipal Code 42.1603, which prohibit the retail sale of flavored tobacco products statewide and within the City of San Diego.

"Flavored tobacco products are intentionally designed to appeal to young people, and their illegal sale poses a serious threat to public health," said **City Attorney Heather Ferbert**. "This settlement reflects my office's continued commitment to holding retailers accountable and stopping the unlawful marketing of harmful products in our communities."

As part of the settlement, the defendants have agreed to pay \$200,000, including \$190,000 in UCL civil penalties and \$10,000 to cover investigative costs. The stipulated judgment also requires compliance with a three-year injunction prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products. Any future violations will result in additional penalties.

The Affirmative Civil Enforcement (ACE) Unit of the City Attorney's Office pursues public interest actions on behalf of the People of the State of California. This case was prosecuted by Deputy City Attorney Kevin King.

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