

City must pay man arrested for sign

Ed Sloman, arrested for carrying anti-growth political sign at Trade Fair, will collect at least \$35,350.

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Staff Writer

The city must pay \$35,350 in damages to Ed Sloman, who filed a \$10 million lawsuit six years ago, claiming that at the 1986 Chamber of Commerce Trade Fair, some merchants, the city and police officers violated his civil rights.

"This is a great victory for Ed," said Sloman's attorney, Edward Fox. "It should serve to make police stop and think before they use their own authority to promote their political beliefs."

Said Sloman, "They're paying, and I'm collecting."

City Attorney John Torrance would not comment on the case.

The suit stemmed from an incident eight

years ago in which Sloman was arrested on trespassing charges when he brought a sign supporting two limits-to-growth initiatives to the Trade Fair. Some merchants claimed he was obstructing business and had Sloman arrested.

Sloman was found innocent in February 1987 on the misdemeanor charge of trespassing, but was so angered by the arrest that he filed a \$10 million claim against the city.

When the city rejected that claim, he filed the \$10 million lawsuit against the merchants, the city and the officers who arrested him, claiming they singled him out because they disagreed with his political stance and violated his civil rights.

A jury found one officer, Herman M. (Butch) Hale, liable to Sloman for \$35,350 in compensatory and punitive damages. The case against Philip Tadlock, one of Trade Fair merchants, was dismissed before the trial. The case against the city was also dismissed, but the city is still respon-

sible for Hale's compensatory damages, Fox said.

The city appealed that decision, and the case then went to the U.S. Ninth District Court of Appeals.

The Court of Appeals last week not only upheld the judgment against Hale, it also reinstated the civil suit against Tadlock.

The decision means the city must pay the \$35,350 awarded earlier to Sloman. The question of how much will be paid in attorneys fees will go back to the first judge who heard the case, Fox said.

The suit against Tadlock accuses him of acting in conspiracy with police officers to remove Sloman from the Trade Fair grounds, Fox said. If a jury rules against him, Tadlock would be liable for damages and possibly for attorneys fees, Fox said. If he appeals, his appeal would be separate from the city's, according to Fox.

Sloman's arrest at the Trade Fair was the second time he was cited by police officers for carrying his sign.

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