



HUMBOLDT COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Re: Charges Dropped Against Steven Sterback

Date: April 11, 2012

Contact: Deputy District Attorney Kelly Neel

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On Friday, April 6, 2012, the Humboldt County District Attorney's Office dismissed criminal charges against Steven Sterback, operator of the Fernbridge Café and Market. The charges stemmed from incidents that occurred in March of 2011, after the Humboldt County Division of Environmental Health issued a notice of suspension of Mr. Sterback's permit to operate a food facility. In April 2011, the District Attorney's Office filed three counts of operating a food facility without a permit in violation of Health and Safety Code section 114381.

The case was set for trial numerous times, but each time was continued for reasons that included lack of an available courtroom and unavailable witnesses. In the meantime, the People and Mr. Sterback worked at trying to resolve the case. Ultimately, the District Attorney's Office determined that dismissal of the pending charges would be in the interest of justice, given the fact that the issues identified by the County have been addressed and the Café has been legally open and operating for some time.

Deputy District Attorney Christa McKimmy, who handled the prosecution for the People, indicated that the Café closed last April and remained closed for several months prior to reopening. "At this point, the County is satisfied that Mr. Sterback is operating in compliance with the applicable laws and regulations and continues its oversight of the Café's operations."