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FREE SPEECH CASE DISMISSED From Courthouse Ordinance Arrest

Humboldt Co., CA: "In the interest of justice" the Humboldt County District Attorney's Office was forced to dismiss charges against Registered Nurse and Free Speech activist Patricia Kanzler. Ms. Kanzler was arrested and charged with violating the hastily passed and much criticized "Urgency Ordinance". The poorly crafted law was pushed quickly past an outraged public by the County Board of Supervisors on March 27, 2012 to restrict First Amendment Rights on courthouse property. Ms. Kanzler vowed at the time that she would continue to protest at [or use] the courthouse, the most traditional space in Humboldt County for expression of political dissent. True to her word, the next day she was arrested for hanging up a banner of the American Flag with the words "Freedom of Speech" emblazoned across the bottom. "The State and Federal Constitutions give me the right to free speech, and that trumps that repressive 'urgency ordinance'," declared Ms. Kanzler as she defended her symbolic banner.

Humboldt County jurors repudiated the County's new law in the 'Not Guilty' verdicts rendered earlier this month in the case of the, "Candlelight Three," activists arrested for holding a candlelight vigil past the curfew time of 9:30pm on the courthouse steps. The dismissal of Ms. Kanzler's case puts the period on the end of that jury's statement. The people of Humboldt County who valued Constitutional rights want the Urgency Ordinance repealed.

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