



San Diego City Attorney Jan I. Goldsmith

NEWS RELEASE

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RESTAURANT OWNERS SENTENCED FOR FOOD SAFETY VIOLATIONS

San Diego, CA: Lauro Cornejo Prijoles and Cristina Gutierrez Prijoles were sentenced on January 28, 2010, for food safety violations found at Cristy's Bakery and Restaurant, 9178 Mira Mesa Boulevard, San Diego. The Prijoles had each pleaded no contest to two counts of operating a restaurant and failing to maintain potentially hazardous food at required temperatures.

The Prijoles were each ordered not to own, manage, operate, or supervise food employees at any restaurant. In addition, they cannot work at any restaurant in food handling or preparation. They were each ordered to pay a \$1,750 fine and serve three years probation. During the term of probation, they also must pay for a third party inspector to complete an unannounced food safety inspection of the restaurant once every 45 days.

As owners and operators of Cristy's Bakery and Restaurant, the Prijoles had a long history of serious violations of the California Health and Safety Code involving sanitation, food handling, and food storage. Over the past five years, the Prijoles consistently failed to keep hot foods at or above the required temperature (135° F) and cold foods at or below the required temperature (41° F). In February 2009, the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health revoked their health permit to operate the restaurant, requiring the restaurant to shut down. The restaurant is currently operated by Lawrence Prijoles.

It is critical for restaurants to maintain the proper temperatures for perishable hot and cold foods. Improper temperatures can lead to food borne illnesses and present a major risk to public health and safety. Deputy City Attorney Joan McNamara, the prosecutor, said the punishment received by the Prijoles should send a message that unsafe handling of food for public consumption will not be tolerated in San Diego.

To report potential violations involving improper food handling, citizens are asked to call the County Department of Environmental Health, Food and Housing Division Complaint Line, at (619) 338-2283.

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