

NEWS RELEASE

SALINAS CORNER MARKET OWNER AND EMPLOYEE ARRAIGNED ON FOOD STAMP FRAUD CHARGE

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that after a yearlong investigation, Young Kim and Seong Kang were arraigned on a charge alleging that the two committed food stamp fraud at Corner Market in Salinas for over 2 years.

Young Kim, an owner of Corner Market, and Seong Kang, an employee at the market are charged with illegal redemptions of CalFresh (also known as food stamps or welfare) benefits. CalFresh benefits are part of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Act Program (SNAP) in conjunction with the State of California Department of Social Services. Retailers, like Corner Market, are licensed with California to redeem Electronic Benefit Transactions (EBT) and must comply with the program rules. CalFresh benefits are administered via EBT cards. The charges allege that Kim and Kang defrauded the program out of thousands of dollars in illegal redemptions. The defendants are scheduled to return to court on October 5, 2015, for further proceedings.

It is illegal to redeem CalFresh benefits for cash as well as to purchase items such as alcohol and cigarettes. The Monterey County Department of Social Services and the Monterey County District Attorney's Office has a Welfare Fraud tip line. If you have information regarding welfare fraud you can leave an anonymous tip at (831)755-3224. If you would like to speak with an investigator regarding Corner Market please contact District Attorney Investigator Don Magnuson at (831) 883-7546.

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