



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **L.A. CITY ATTORNEY ROCKY DELGADILLO SECURES CLEANUP, DONATIONS FROM OWNER- OPERATOR OF ALAMEDA PRODUCE MARKET**

**Management Agrees to Remain Vigilant on Conditions of  
Marketplace**

**LOS ANGELES** – Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo today announced his office has secured a settlement agreement with Alameda Produce Market Inc., the owners of the 7<sup>th</sup> Street Produce Market, to ensure continued implementation and maintenance of best practices that will eliminate serious issues including past sanitary and rodent infestation problems at the facility.

In March 2007, City Attorney Delgadillo filed multiple criminal charges against Alameda Produce Market Inc., after inspectors discovered rodent infestation and poorly maintained facilities at the 7<sup>th</sup> Street Produce Market. Over the course of the past year, while in settlement negotiations with the City Attorney's Office, operators of the 7<sup>th</sup> Street Produce Market spent more than \$600,000 on the facility to add new bathrooms, improve and upgrade lighting, and implement a new master pest control and waste recycling program.

As a result of the settlement, Alameda Produce Market Inc. has agreed to enter a no contest plea to four counts of violating the Los Angeles County Code and Los Angeles Municipal Code for conditions at the marketplace. The company will be placed on 36 months probation and will be ordered to pay a total of \$42,518 including \$15,335 to the Department of Building and Safety, \$21,183 to the Health Department for investigative costs, and \$6,000 in court fines.

Alameda Produce Market has also agreed to pay \$35,000 to local non-profit organizations, including donating \$20,000 to the LA's Best after school program; \$5,000 to Homeboy Industries; and \$10,000 to the East Los Angeles Classic Theater Company.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Street Produce Market owners have also adopted a new lease agreement program with tenants that require participation in the pest control and waste recycling programs as well as the hiring of a bilingual tenant liaison. In addition, the company completed construction of a state-of-the-art security operation facility, complete with security cameras and trained security personnel, headed by a former LAPD officer.

As part of the settlement, Alameda Produce Market and its representatives will continue to work closely with the City Attorney, Department of Building and Safety and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to maintain best practices at the marketplace and work to serve as a model for other area markets.

During the first 12 months of the probation period, Alameda Produce Market is required to report on its compliance efforts to the City Attorney's Office and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health after three months, six months and 12 months. If Alameda Produce Market fails to remedy noticed violations within the provided time periods, the court could impose fines and penalties between \$30,000 and \$90,000 depending on the time of violation during the period of probation.

"The 7<sup>th</sup> Street Produce Market is an important economic driver for downtown small businesses and for the farmers who bring their produce directly from the fields to market," said Alameda Produce Market spokesperson Michael Bustamante. "The agreement we've reached with the City Attorney's office recognizes the significant investment the market owners have made over the course of the past year and underscores the owner's commitment to operate a market that will serve as a model for other marketplaces."

The 7<sup>th</sup> Street Produce Market is a wholesale produce market complex located on Central Avenue, between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Los Angeles, which contains 75 stalls leased to individual vendors. While each vendor is required to maintain a valid permit from the Health Department, the company has control over the main facility, including the restroom facility, and is responsible for overseeing all construction and repairs.

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