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El Mestizo Restaurant pleads guilty to filing false tax return to cover theft of sales tax

SEATTLE – March 1, 2013 – The corporation that operated El Mestizo Restaurant on First Hill pled guilty this week to filing a false or fraudulent state tax return after failing to report sales tax it collected from customers but failed to remit to the state.

King County Superior Court Judge Douglass North imposed mandatory fines and penalties on the corporation, Empresas Carrillo, LLC. The corporation previously paid \$23,509 to cover unpaid sales tax, interest and penalties.

The charges were brought against the corporation last month by the Washington Attorney General's Office at the request of the Department of Revenue.

According to charging papers, the corporation was formed by Jose Carrillo and his spouse Sarah Groome. They operated the restaurant at 526 Broadway Street in Seattle from January 2010 until it closed in October 2011.

The failure of the business to remit all the sales tax it collected from customers was detected through a Department audit. Carrillo admitted to using the tax revenue he collected to pay the Internal Revenue Service and restaurant employees.

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