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Public Health Announces Decision to Revoke Food Service License

Muskegon, MI – At today’s meeting of the Human Resources Committee of the Muskegon County Board of Commissioners, Public Health – Muskegon County announced the decision of the Hearing Board to revoke the food service license issued to **Stir Fry 88** for failure to comply with the Michigan Food Law. The restaurant has been ordered to cease operations and to close. The license revocation was based on a long term history of repeat food safety violation and failure to comply with corrective measures.

The Food Service Sanitation program at the public health department has the responsibility of enforcing laws related to food safety in restaurants and other food service establishments. Sanitarians inspect restaurants twice a year not just for cleanliness, but also to assure that the restaurant staff competently demonstrate food storage, handling, and preparation techniques that reduce risk factors known to cause foodborne illness. The public health department may revoke a food service license when it believes the public’s health may be endangered.

“The public is entitled to have an expectation of safe food when they dine out,” explains Ken Kraus, Health Officer and Director of Public Health – Muskegon County. “We have the responsibility of making sure that restaurants are in compliance with food safety practices to protect the public and reduce the likelihood of an outbreak of foodborne illness.”

If a restaurant is cited for violations, especially those that are considered critical or more likely to contribute to a food safety problem, their frequency of inspection may be increased and they are monitored to assure that the violations are corrected. If increasing the frequency of inspection fails to remedy the situation, the public health department proceeds to an office conference, then to an informal hearing and finally to a formal hearing in attempts to resolve the matter. The restaurant is given multiple chances to fix the violations to achieve compliance.

“The restaurant operators have the responsibility of knowing the rules for food safety and to assure that the food they are preparing is safe to the public,” Kraus continued. “Fortunately, revoking a food service license is a rare occurrence in Muskegon County.”

Restaurant inspection results and enforcement actions taken on all licensed food service establishments in Muskegon County can be viewed on the public health department’s web site at www.muskegonhealth.net under the public advisories section.

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Editorial Notes: The Hearing Board for food service related enforcement actions consists of the Health Officer, the Chair of the Muskegon County Board of Commissioners Human Resources Committee and the Muskegon County Commissioner of the district in which the food service establishment is located.

Information about the types of violations the Stir Fry 88 experienced is listed in the enforcement actions report on the public health department’s website at www.muskegonhealth.net under public advisories.