



Steven W. Troxler  
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services

*Meat and Poultry Inspection Division*

Joseph W. Reardon  
Assistant Commissioner  
for Consumer Protection

Alan Wade  
Interim Director

February 24, 2020

**CERTIFIED MAIL/RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Mr. Alberto Benitez  
Mezquital Valley Catering  
2201 South Wilmington Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603

**NOTICE OF WARNING**

We have an investigative case report showing that you violated the North Carolina Compulsory Meat Inspection Law. This reported violation was discussed with you on January 31, 2020. Specifically, our investigation revealed that you had processed, stored, transported, offered for sale and sold misbranded/non-inspected meat products (BBQ lamb and chickpea soup containing lamb meat) to the general public, that was produced without the benefit of State (N.C.D.A.) or Federal (U.S.D.A.) inspection. In a signed statement dated January 31, 2020, you stated that you processed, stored, transported, offered for sale and sold misbranded/non-inspected meat products to the general public for approximately two (2) months.

Please be advised that the sale of misbranded and/or non-inspected meat products and the sale of misbranded and/or non-inspected poultry products is a violation of North Carolina General Statute (N.C.G.S.) §106-549.23 and §106-549.56 with civil and/or criminal penalties. Please be advised that you will not receive any further warning with regard to this violation. If you should continue to sell misbranded and/or non-inspected meat and poultry products, we will pursue legal action against you to invoke the penalties associated with these continued violations. I certainly hope this expensive action will not be necessary. An officer from this department will visit you periodically to verify compliance.

Sincerely,

Alan Wade  
Interim State Director

Certified Mail 7017 1070 0001 0035 3070

cc: Mr. Joe Reardon, Assistant Commissioner  
Ms. Tina Hlabse, General Counsel  
Mr. Chris McLennan, Assistant Attorney General