

Latino chamber is facing a lawsuit

By DAVE BROOKS
OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

A local amusement park company announced Tuesday that it plans to sue the Santa Cruz County Latino Chamber of Commerce. The news came less than a week after revelations that the Latino chamber was evicted from its downtown Watsonville office.

Spokesperson John Robinson of the Seaside Company — owner of the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk — on Tuesday announced plans to file a lawsuit against the Latino chamber to recover over \$10,000 in back fees. The chamber never the paid money it owed for renting a ball-

Chamber of Commerce
Company is trying to recover \$10,000 in back fees

room at the Boardwalk to host its 2001 annual dinner, Robinson said.

"Basically the situation is that the Coconut Grove hasn't received any payment for the annual dinner," Robinson said during a Tuesday interview. "They sent us post-dated checks, but when we tried to cash them, the checks didn't go through."

Robinson said that the Seaside Company had exhausted all possible means to recover the money and is now resorting to legal action.

"They sent us post-dated checks, but when we tried to cash them, the checks didn't go through."

— John Robinson,
spokesperson for
Seaside Company

"We've been left with no alternative," he said. "We were willing to work out the most generous of payment plans, but we never received any response. As a business, you can't leave people out of thousands and thousands of dollars."

The Seaside Company's attorneys are now in the process of a filing a civil lawsuit against the Latino chamber in Santa Cruz County Superior Court.

Luis De La Cruz, the Latino chamber CEO, on Tuesday helped facilitate a reception for the new teachers of the Pajaro

10-1-03
Valley Unified School District. De La Cruz said that knew about the impending lawsuit, but did not wish to comment.

The lawsuit falls on the heels of recent financial problems for the Latino chamber. The chamber was evicted from its downtown Watsonville office by the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office on Sept. 10.

The chamber's landlord, Jack Deal of the El Pajaro Community Development Corporation, alleged that the chamber was several months behind on its \$160-a-month office and had failed to obtain commercial insurance. Deal said the chamber owes him roughly \$1,300.