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Sausalito stabbing suspect released after DA drops charges

By Gary Klien, Marin Independent Journal

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A Sausalito boat resident accused of shooting at a man and stabbing him several months later was released from jail after the prosecution dismissed the charges.

Nomer Castro, 52, was scheduled to have his preliminary hearing last week in Marin Superior Court, but the alleged victim failed to show up to testify. The district attorney's office then dropped both cases, although it is still possible charges could be refiled later if circumstances change.

The first incident occurred last April, when Castro was staying on a 100-foot sailboat anchored in Richardson Bay. Police said Castro brandished a gun at the alleged victim, who also lives in a boat off the Sausalito shore.

Castro's public defender said the alleged victim was trying to board the 100-foot boat in pursuit of an estranged girlfriend who had sought refuge there. Castro fired the gun as a warning shot to warn off the aggressor and protect the woman, the defense said.

Later, Castro himself started dating the same woman. Another confrontation ensued in October involving Castro and the rival, and Castro stabbed him, police said. The victim was taken to the hospital for treatment.

Castro's public defender, Michael Coffino, said the stabbing was in self-defense. Coffino promised testimony from numerous boat residents who described the stabbing victim as a menacing figure known for boarding other boats, swinging a machete at other mariners, and secretly taking video of his girlfriend performing a sex act and then posting it on Facebook.

"From the day of his arrest right through to today, Mr. Castro has been calm, patient and cooperative, which says a lot about his character," Coffino said after the charges were dismissed.

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