

PRESS RELEASE

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Juan C. Pineda-Pineda, 31, Mexico, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 12 months in prison for conspiracy to possess cocaine with intent to distribute. Pineda-Pineda will be deported to Mexico after he completes his prison sentence.

Between May 2007 and June 2008, the defendant was involved in a conspiracy with numerous other individuals in which they conspired to possess cocaine with intent to distribute in the Watertown area. Thus far, 11 individuals have been sentenced to prison for their role in the case. The remaining defendant, Gerardo Pineda-Soria, is scheduled to be sentenced on May 27, 2009.

Beginning in February 2008, the United States received authority from Chief Judge Crabb to conduct wiretaps on several of the telephones being used by Pineda-Pineda and his co-defendants to conduct the drug operation. Approximately 8000 calls were monitored by law enforcement officers in which the defendants were overheard conducting drug transactions.

On June 19, 2008, law enforcement officers executed 11 search warrants in the

Western and Eastern Districts of Wisconsin, resulting in the arrest of the defendants, the seizure of over \$100,000 in United States currency, several automobiles, and multiple kilograms of cocaine.

The charges against Pineda-Pineda was the result of an investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration; Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigations; Dodge County Sheriff's Department; Jefferson County Drug Task Force; Fort Atkinson Police Department; Watertown Police Department, and Janesville Police Department. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

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