



Department of Justice

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Dilworth Man Sentenced on Federal Drug and Firearm Charges

FARGO - United States Attorney Drew Wrigley announced that on June 22, 2009, **Alfredo Portales, a/k/a Freddy Portales**, of Dilworth, Minnesota, was sentenced before United States District Court Judge Ralph R. Erickson on charges of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and distribute a controlled substance and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Portales, 33, pleaded guilty on April 8, 2009, to purchasing heroin in Chicago and then transporting it to the Fargo-Moorhead area on January 15, 2009, for distribution.

Portales, along with co-defendant Raul Garcia, then sold ten quarter-gram packages of heroin and some marijuana to a cooperating individual in Fargo. Later that evening

Portales was stopped by the Moorhead police and found to be in possession of 41 quarter-gram packages of heroin, and a .380 caliber pistol. Possession of the pistol was unlawful for **Portales** because he had several prior convictions for felonies, crimes punishable by more than one year in prison.

Judge Erickson sentenced **Portales** to 15 years' imprisonment to be followed by

six years of supervised release. **Portales** was also ordered to pay a \$200 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund.

Portales was sentenced as a career offender due to his three prior convictions for drug trafficking and violent crimes. Possession of a firearm by a convicted felon carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years' imprisonment.

United States Attorney Drew Wrigley commented that, "Periodically a criminal earns a rap sheet that makes people stand up and say, 'enough is enough!' Mr. Portales has a long history of dealing drugs and now he has added the threat of gun violence to help him push his poison. Well, Portales will be in federal prison for 15 years without the possibility of parole. Enough is enough -- he earned every day of that sentence."

Co-defendant Raul Garcia has pleaded guilty in United States District Court to a charge of conspiracy to distribute heroin. He will be sentenced on July 17, 2009.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Moorhead Police Department; and the Cass County Drug Task Force, which includes officers from the West Fargo Police Department, Cass County Sheriff's Department, North Dakota Parole and Probation, and North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation. Assistance was also provided by the Clay County Attorney's Office.

Assistant United States Attorney Scott Schneider prosecuted the case.

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