

For Immediate Release
May 12, 2011

**JERRY PADILLA, JR., AND JERRY PADILLA, III, PLEAD GUILTY
TO FEDERAL NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING CHARGES**

*Padilla, Jr., and Padilla, III, Alleged Leaders of the Los
Padillas Gang, to Forfeit Residence and \$441,008*

*Joseph Padilla, Son of Padilla, Jr., and Brother of Padilla, III, Ordered
Detained Pending Trial in a Separate Unrelated Drug Trafficking Case*

ALBUQUERQUE – United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales announced that, this morning in federal court in Albuquerque, **Jerry L. Padilla, Jr.**, 43, and his son, **Jerry L. Padilla, III**, 26, entered guilty pleas to narcotics trafficking charges under plea agreements with his Office. In a separate and unrelated proceeding, **Joseph Steven Padilla**, the 21-year-old son of Padilla, Jr., and brother of Padilla, III, was ordered detained pending trial after a United States Magistrate Judge found that his arrest on heroin trafficking charges was supported by probable cause.

Guilty Pleas by Padilla, Jr. and Padilla, III

Padilla, Jr., pleaded guilty to Counts Two, Three and Four of a four-count indictment charging him with conspiracy and three separate distributions of cocaine. Padilla, Jr., also pleaded guilty to violating the supervised release term imposed as a result of his prior conviction in another federal drug trafficking case. Under the terms of his plea agreement, Padilla, Jr., will serve a 37-month term of imprisonment for his conviction on the cocaine trafficking offenses, and a 51-month term of imprisonment for his supervised release violation. The two prison terms will run consecutive to each other for a total of 88-months' imprisonment. Padilla, Jr. also is required to forfeit his interest in the residential property located at 2121 Celeste Road SW in Albuquerque.

Padilla, III, pleaded guilty to narcotics trafficking offenses charged in two separate cases. Padilla, III, entered guilty pleas to (i) Count Four of a four-count indictment filed in December 2009 that charged him and his father with cocaine trafficking offenses, and (ii) a one-count indictment filed in March 2011 that charged him with a heroin trafficking offense. Under the terms of his plea agreements, Padilla, III, will serve a 24-month term of imprisonment for his conviction on the cocaine trafficking offense, and an 18-month term of imprisonment on his conviction for the heroin trafficking offense. The two prison terms will run consecutive to each other for a total of 42-months' imprisonment. Padilla, III, also is required to forfeit his interest in the residential property located at 2121 Celeste Road SW in Albuquerque, and \$441,008 seized from the property pursuant to a search warrant executed in December 2009.

Padilla, Jr., and Padilla, III, are both in federal custody and will remain detained pending their sentencing hearings, which have yet to be scheduled.

Court records reflect that the two Padillas were arrested on December 3, 2009 on a criminal complaint, and subsequently were indicted on December 16, 2009. According to the criminal complaint, Padilla, Jr., distributed cocaine to an informant who was working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Albuquerque Police Department (APD) on three separate occasions in March 2009. Padilla, III, participated in the third distribution.

In his plea agreement, Padilla, Jr., admitted distributing quantities of cocaine to the informant on three occasions: (i) 186.4 grams of cocaine on March 7, 2009; (ii) 180.3 grams of cocaine on March 11, 2009; and (iii) 130 grams of cocaine on March 19, 2011. Padilla, Jr., stated that, with respect to the March 19, 2011 distribution, he directed the informant to meet Padilla, III, at his residence, 2121 Celeste Road SW in Albuquerque, where the informant obtained the cocaine from Padilla, III.

In his own plea agreement, Padilla, III, admitted he provided a quantity of cocaine to the informant on March 19, 2011 at the direction of his father. His plea agreement also states that \$441,008 was recovered from PVC pipe buried in his backyard when a search warrant was executed at his residence at 2121 Celeste Road SW in Albuquerque on December 3, 2009. In entering his guilty plea, Padilla, III, admitted that the currency was proceeds of drug sales.

In a separate plea agreement, Padilla, III, admitted that, on February 26, 2011, he sold two ounces of heroin to an informant who was working with the FBI and APD in exchange for \$1,500. He further admitted that the heroin transaction took place at his residence at 2121 Celeste Road SW in Albuquerque. Court records reflect that Padilla, III, was on release under pretrial supervision in the cocaine trafficking case when he distributed the heroin. His release conditions were revoked as a result of his indictment on the heroin trafficking offense and Padilla, III, was remanded into federal custody.

The cases against Padilla, Jr., and Padilla, III, were investigated by the FBI and APD with assistance from the Drug Enforcement Administration, the New Mexico State Police and the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Joel R. Meyers and Nicholas J. Ganjei.

Joseph Padilla Detained on Heroin Trafficking Charges

Joseph Padilla, who was arrested on May 11, 2011 in a separate and unrelated heroin trafficking case, appeared in federal court this morning for a preliminary hearing. A United States Magistrate Judge found that there was probable cause to support a criminal complaint charging Joseph Padilla with heroin trafficking offenses. The Magistrate Judge detained Joseph Padilla pending trial based on findings that he posed a danger to the community and a risk of flight. If convicted of the charges against him, Joseph Padilla faces a maximum penalty of a

mandatory minimum 10-years imprisonment to a maximum of life imprisonment, a \$10,000,000 fine, and five-years of supervised release.

According to the criminal complaint, Joseph Padilla distributed heroin to an informant working for the FBI on four separate occasions in April 2011 and May 2011. It alleges that Joseph Padilla provided a one-gram sample of heroin to the informant at around noon on April 12, 2011. It further alleges that Joseph Padilla sold four ounces of heroin (107 gross grams) to the informant at approximately 9:00 a.m. on April 15, 2011 in exchange for \$2,400. At approximately 9:00 a.m. on April 21, 2011, Joseph Padilla allegedly sold eight ounces of heroin (220.4 gross grams) to the informant in exchange for \$4,800. Joseph Padilla sold approximately three pounds of heroin (1,233 gross grams) to the informant for \$9,600 per pound at around noon on May 4, 2011. At that time, the informant gave Joseph Padilla \$12,000 towards the heroin's purchase price of \$28,800. The four heroin transactions took place in various locations in Albuquerque.

The cases against Joseph Padilla was investigated by the FBI and APD, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Joel R. Meyers and Nicholas J. Ganjei.

Charges in criminal complaints are only accusations. All criminal defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

###

11-215