



PRESS RELEASE

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**TWO SANTA FE MEN ARRESTED ON FEDERAL
METHAMPHETAMINE TRAFFICKING CHARGES**

ALBUQUERQUE – Yesterday, Willie Anaya, 49, and Manuel Mendez, 30, both of Santa Fe, N.M., were arrested on federal methamphetamine trafficking charges by agents of the FBI and the HIDTA Region III Narcotics Task Force. Both men made their initial appearances on a criminal complaint in Albuquerque federal court this morning, and are temporarily detained pending detention hearings scheduled on Oct. 19, 2012.

The criminal complaint charges Anaya and Mendez with conspiracy to violate the federal narcotics laws and distribution of methamphetamine. According to the criminal complaint, on Oct. 17, 2012, Mendez sold approximately two ounces of methamphetamine to an agent who was acting in an undercover capacity for \$3800. The complaint alleges that Mendez obtained the methamphetamine from Anaya. At the time of his arrest, Mendez allegedly had \$200 of the “buy money” in his possession. The remaining \$3600 allegedly was recovered from Anaya’s residence when the agents executed a federal search warrant at that location.

On conviction, each of the two charges in the criminal complaint carries a maximum penalty of not less than five years nor more than 40 years of imprisonment and a \$5 million fine.

The case was investigated by the Santa Fe office of the FBI and the HIDTA Region III Narcotics Task Force, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Raul Torrez.

The HIDTA – High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area – Program is a program of the White House Office National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) that facilitates cooperation among federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement to foster intelligence sharing and to support the execution of effective enforcement operations aimed at dismantling drug trafficking organization in critical drug trafficking regions of the United States. The HIDTA Region III Narcotics Task Force is comprised of the New Mexico State Police, the Santa Fe County Sheriff’s Office and the Santa Fe Police Department.

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

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