

# NEWS

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United States Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey  
401 Market Street, Fourth Floor  
Camden, New Jersey 08101

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***Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney***

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***More Information?*** Contact the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

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## Buena Vista Man Pleads Guilty to Crack Distribution

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(More)

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TRENTON – A Buena Vista man pleaded guilty today to distribution of crack cocaine, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

Jesus Cuadrado, 31, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Freda L. Wolfson to one count of conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine. Judge Wolfson continued the defendant's detention and scheduled sentencing for June 22.

At his plea hearing, Cuadrado admitted that in December 2005 he agreed with others to engage in the trafficking of crack cocaine. Cuadrado admitted that on Dec. 19, 2005, he made arrangements to sell two ounces of crack cocaine to an individual who turned out to be a confidential informant working with law enforcement.

Cuadrado admitted he obtained the crack cocaine by having another individual cook powder cocaine into crack cocaine. Later that same day, Cuadrado met the individual at a location on East Landis Avenue in Vineland and gave him two ounces of crack cocaine. Cuadrado admitted they had an understanding that the individual would pay him \$1,500 for the crack cocaine at a later date.

On Dec. 27, 2005, the confidential informant came to Cuadrado residence in Buena Vista Township and to pay him for the crack cocaine, Cuadrado admitted. Because Cuadrado was not home at the time, he instructed another individual to accept the \$1,500 as payment for the crack cocaine, he admitted.

The charge of conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine carries a statutory mandatory minimum prison sentence of 10 years and a maximum penalty of life in prison, and a fine of \$4 million.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Wolfson will consult the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Christie credited Special Agents of the FBI's Atlantic City Resident Agency, under the direction of Acting Special Agent in Charge Pedro Ruiz; DEA's Atlantic City Resident Office, under the direction of Gerard P. McAleer; ATF's Philadelphia Field Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Mark Potter; the Cumberland County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Ronald J. Casella; and numerous local police departments, with the investigation of the case.

The Government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Diana V. Carrig of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Wayne Powell, Esq. Cherry Hill