

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Another Member of Cumberland County
Cocaine Trafficking Network Pleads Guilty

(More)

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CAMDEN - A member of a cocaine trafficking network that was responsible for the distribution of large quantities of cocaine in the Cumberland County area pleaded guilty today to his role in the conspiracy, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

Fernando Cuevas, 29, of Vineland, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Jerome B. Simandle to a one-count Superseding Information, which charges him with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine. Judge Simandle scheduled sentencing for Sept. 21.

At his plea hearing, Cuevas admitted that from September 2005 through July 2006 he agreed with Felipe Telleria, 34, a.k.a. "Alex," of Vineland, and others to distribute at least 12 kilograms of cocaine in Vineland. Cuevas admitted that he obtained kilogram quantities of cocaine from others and supplied them to Telleria.

On July 10, 2006, Cuevas was arrested in Ohio while he was in possession of seven kilos of cocaine. Two of the kilos were stored in the trunk of a vehicle he was driving, which actually belonged to Telleria. The additional five kilos were hidden in a special "trap" hidden in the dashboard of the car.

Telleria and his associate, Jose Luis Delgado, 23, of Vineland, were arrested on July 11 in Vineland on an earlier one-count Indictment. Telleria pleaded guilty to a one-count Superseding Indictment on March 9, which charges conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 5 kilograms or more of cocaine and 50 grams or more of crack cocaine. Delgado pleaded guilty on June 6, 2007, to one-count Superseding Information, which charges him with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 5 kilograms or more of cocaine.

Judge Simandle scheduled sentencing for Telleria and Delgado for June 29 and Sept. 14, respectively. Each of the defendants has been held in federal custody since their arrest.

The charge of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 5 kilograms of cocaine carries a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years in prison and a maximum penalty of life, and a fine of up to \$4 million.

Christie credited the Special Agents of the DEA, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Gerald P. McAleer in Newark, and Investigators with member agencies of the Cumberland County Narcotics Task Force, under the direction of Cumberland County Prosecutor Ronald J. Casella, with developing the investigation which resulted in the Superseding Indictment and Indictments.

The Cumberland County Narcotics Task Force comprises the Cumberland County Prosecutor's Office, DEA, FBI, ATF, New Jersey State Police, Vineland Police Department, Bridgeton Police Department, Millville Police Department.

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

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Defense attorney: Jeffrey C. Zucker, Esq. Camden