



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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ODESSA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL COCAINE AND FIREARM CHARGES

United States Attorney Robert Pitman announced that 28-year-old Christian Aguirre of Odessa, faces a minimum of 15 years in federal prison after pleading guilty this morning to conspiring to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine and possessing firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking.

According to court records, on December 8, 2011, special agents with the Drug Enforcement Administration performing surveillance watched Aguirre and another individual while they were inside a unit at a storage facility in Odessa. When Aguirre drove away from the storage facility, officers tried to pull over the vehicle he was driving, but Aguirre sped away. During the ensuing chase, Aguirre lead authorities through Odessa at speeds that approached, or exceeded, 100 miles per hour at times. Aguirre was finally apprehended near the corner of Dixie and University; the other individual who was with him successfully ran away. When Aguirre was arrested, he had in his pocket a key to the lock for the storage unit that agents had just seen him in.

DEA agents obtained a federal search warrant for the storage unit. Inside, agents found four tires, and a large safe which contained two handguns, approximately \$12,000 in cash, approximately 3.7 kilograms of cocaine, digital scales, a vacuum sealer, a money counter and cocaine packaging materials.

As part of his plea before United States District Judge Robert Junell, Aguirre admitted that he had been trafficking in cocaine with other individuals for several months and that the amount of cocaine handled during the conspiracy in which he participated exceeded five kilograms.

Aguirre remains in federal custody pending sentencing scheduled for June 2012.

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration. Assistant United States Attorneys John Klassen and William Tatum are prosecuting the case on behalf of the Government.

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