



Department of Justice

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Lexington Man Sentenced to 240 Months for Large-Scale Drug Trafficking

LEXINGTON, Ky. - A Lexington man, Guadalupe Ramos, 28, was sentenced in federal court on Monday, to 240 months in prison, by Chief U.S. District Judge Danny Reeves, for possession with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine, 40 grams or more of fentanyl, and marijuana.

According to his plea agreement, in November 2019, law enforcement agents identified Ramos as a drug trafficker distributing significant quantities of methamphetamine out of two residences in Lexington. On January 9, 2020, agents with DEA and ATF executed a search warrant on one of the residences, seizing 3.62 kilograms of methamphetamine, 12,500 fentanyl pills, approximately 50 pounds of marijuana, 156 grams of heroin, and a packing press. A search of the second residence revealed an additional 138 grams of methamphetamine, a .40 caliber revolver, a .38 caliber revolver, a rifle, scales, and marijuana.

Ramos pleaded guilty in May 2020.

“Fentanyl, heroin, and methamphetamine, are responsible for the majority of overdose deaths that occur across the Commonwealth, and the defendant possessed large quantities of drugs with the intent to distribute them” said Robert M. Duncan, Jr., United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky. “He also possessed a sizeable quantity of marijuana and multiple firearms. The cooperation of federal and state law enforcement stopped the defendant from further harming this community through distribution of these dangerous drugs. He will now face the deserved consequences of his actions.”

Under federal law, Ramos must serve 85 percent of his prison sentence. Upon his release, he will be under the supervision of the U.S. Probation Office for five years.

Robert M. Duncan, Jr., United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky; Shawn Morrow, Special Agent in Charge, ATF, Louisville Field Division; and Jeffrey T. Scott, Special Agent in Charge, DEA, Louisville Field Division, jointly made the announcement.

The investigation was directed by ATF and DEA. The United States was represented by

Assistant U.S. Attorney Cynthia Rieker.

This case was prosecuted as part of Operation Synthetic Opioid Surge (S.O.S.), a focused enforcement effort that seeks to reduce the supply of deadly synthetic opioids in high impact areas.

This is another case prosecuted as part of the Department of Justice’s [“Project Safe Neighborhoods” Program \(PSN\)](#), which is a nationwide, crime reduction strategy aimed at decreasing violent crime in communities. It involves a comprehensive approach to public safety — one that includes investigating and prosecuting crimes, along with prevention and reentry efforts. In the Eastern District of Kentucky, U.S. Attorney Robert Duncan Jr., coordinates PSN efforts in cooperation with various federal, state, and local law enforcement officials.

This case is also part of Project Guardian, the Department of Justice’s signature initiative to reduce gun violence and enforce federal firearms laws. Initiated by the Attorney General in the fall of 2019, Project Guardian draws upon the Department’s past successful programs to reduce gun violence; enhances coordination of federal, state, local, and tribal authorities in investigating and prosecuting gun crimes; improves information-sharing by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives when a prohibited individual attempts to purchase a firearm and is denied by the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), to include taking appropriate actions when a prospective purchaser is denied by the NICS for mental health reasons; and ensures that federal resources are directed at the criminals posing the greatest threat to our communities. [Click here for more information about Project Guardian.](#)

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