

**Bristol County District Attorney's Office
C. Samuel Sutter
District Attorney**

**Press Release
April 4, 2008**

District Attorney Sam Sutter announced today that Louis Gonzalez, 21, of 480 Tecumseh St., Fall River, was convicted in New Bedford Superior Court on various illegal firearm and drug distribution charges. He was ordered to serve four to five years in a state prison, to be followed by 18 months of probation.

The defendant was arrested after a motor vehicle stop near the intersection of Rivet and County streets in New Bedford. Police, led by Detective Dennis Ledo, found a loaded 9mm Smith & Wesson semi-automatic handgun with a high capacity magazine attached to it. Police also located about 11 grams of crack cocaine, drug paraphernalia and \$100 in cash. Mr. Gonzalez was held without bail during a dangerousness hearing in New Bedford District Court on December 28, 2007. He was then indicted by a grand jury on January 24, 2008, and was again held without bail during a Superior Court dangerousness hearing on February 27, 2008.

The case was concluded well within the 90 days prescribed by the dangerousness statute. Gonzalez pleaded guilty this week to charges of carrying a loaded firearm, carrying an illegal firearm, possession of ammunition without an FID card, possession of a class B substance with intent to distribute and distribution of a class B substance in a school zone.

The case was prosecuted by the office's Shannon Grant prosecutor, Robert Digiantomaso, and the prison sentence was handed down by Superior Court Judge Robert Kane.

The Gonzalez conviction is another example of how District Attorney Sutter's innovative decision to request a dangerousness hearing whenever a defendant is charged with an illegal gun crime and a felony is working.

Since implementing the dangerousness hearing policy, District Attorney Sutter's office has held 110 illegal firearm-related dangerousness hearing in the four district courts of Bristol County.

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