

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

**Press Release
November 26th, 2007**

While personally representing the commonwealth in his office's landmark 75th illegal firearm-related dangerousness hearing today in New Bedford District Court, District Attorney Sam Sutter successfully argued to have Emmanuel Jacques deemed a danger to the community and held without bail for up to 90 days.

Jacques is charged with four counts of possessing a firearm without an FID card, and one count each of improper storage of a firearm, use of a firearm in a felony, distribution of cocaine and distribution of marijuana.

Jacques, 36, of 984 Sharon St., New Bedford, was the target of a search warrant executed outside his home around 9:30 p.m. on Nov. 13th.

As a result of the search, New Bedford Police seized a loaded .32 caliber firearm, five rounds of .32 caliber ammunition, 14 rounds of .38 caliber ammunition, seven rounds of .45 caliber ammunition, 29 grams of marijuana, 2.7 grams of cocaine, \$138 in cash and drug packaging materials.

The state's Dangerousness Statute allows for a defendant who is deemed by the court to be a danger to the community to be held without bail for 90 days, while Sutter's team of prosecutors prepare for trial.

Thanks to Sutter's decision to take a dramatically different approach to combating the most pressing public safety issue facing Bristol County by requesting a dangerousness hearing whenever a defendant is charged with an illegal firearm charge and a felony, gun violence has been sharply reduced this year.

Since Sutter took office in early January, "shots fired" calls documented by local police departments have been on the decline across Bristol County.

During the first 10 months of the year in New Bedford, "shots fired" calls have declined by 36 percent compared to last year. New Bedford has also seen a massive 59 percent reduction in the number of shooting victims during that same 10 month time span.

Murders in New Bedford have also declined from five in the first 10 months of 2006 to just one during the first 10 months of 2007.

A similar decline in gun violence is also being seen in Fall River, where "shots fired" calls have dropped from 132 during the first 10 months of 2006 to 76 thus far in 2007.

Those numbers represent a 43 percent decrease in "shots fired" calls.

And in Taunton, police have documented a 20 percent decrease in “shots fired” calls during the first 10 months of 2007.

Since Sutter personally set the precedent in January with the successful use of the Dangerousness Statute in the case of Commonwealth versus Nestor Hernandez, Sutter’s office has triumphed in 58 of the 75 illegal firearm-related dangerousness hearings in district courts around the county, amounting to a 78 percent success rate.

Sutter said the Emmanuel Jacques dangerousness hearing also illustrates his policy on the toxic combination of illegal guns and drug dealing.

Sutter’s office has been very successful getting defendants held as a danger who carry their illegal firearm in public, possess illegal high capacity guns in their home or possess a firearm in their home while also trafficking narcotics.

But Judge Kathryn Hand’s ruling on the Jacques case, coupled with a similar ruling by Judge Bernadette Sabra last week during the dangerousness hearing for Angel Figueroa, means Sutter and his prosecutors are now successfully arguing that possessing an illegal firearm in a home where drug distribution is occurring is also a danger to the public.

“This is the second time in a week that a judge has found that the combination of drug dealing and possessing an illegal gun presents a danger to the community that is sufficient to hold the defendant without bail,” Sutter said. “I applaud both Judge Hand and Judge Sabra. Their rulings will make our community safer. Judge Hand said today that the combination of drug dealing and illegal firearm possession presents a danger to the community. I wholeheartedly agree.”

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