

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

Press Release
December 10, 2009

District Attorney Sam Sutter announced today that Leandro Villoria-Tavares, 48, of Fall River, was convicted by a jury of his peers yesterday in Taunton Superior Court on charges of trafficking more than 100 grams of cocaine and trafficking within 1,000 feet of a school.

Mr. Villoria-Tavares was sentenced by Judge John Connor to serve 10 years in prison for the trafficking cocaine charge and an additional two years in prison for the school zone violation. He must serve all 12 years of his prison sentence.

The three-day trial was prosecuted for District Attorney Sutter's office by Assistant District Attorney Garrett Fregault.

On Feb. 1, 2008 the Fall River Police Department's Vice Unit executed a search warrant at 302 Broadway, 2nd Floor. The lead detective was John Cabral. The search warrant was the culmination of several weeks of investigation that identified the defendant as a drug dealer. The police at the time only knew the defendant by his street name of "Viejo."

Upon executing the search warrant, the defendant was detained outside the apartment. The Defendant was brought up to the apartment where he was read his Miranda warnings. After waiving his rights, the Defendant told the police that he would show them where all the drugs were.

The Defendant led detectives to a closet and pointed out a safe and the key to the safe. The safe contained one large baggie with 101 pre-packaged one gram bags of cocaine ready for street level sales, another bag with an ounce of cocaine, and another bag with 10 grams of cocaine. The total weight was approximately 135 grams with an estimated street value of \$14,000. Detectives also located packaging materials, cutting agents, and a digital scale.

The sentence the defendant received is in line with District Attorney Sutter's office policy to not reduce or plea bargain charges against those caught with more than 100 grams of cocaine or heroin unless there is a compelling reason to do so. In this case, there was no such compelling reason. District Attorney Sutter has consistently stated that those who have more than 100 grams of heroin or cocaine are high-level drug dealers, who are dealing drugs solely for profit.