

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

Press Release
November 24, 2009

District Attorney Sam Sutter announced today that Pedro Mateo-German, 34, of no known address, was sentenced to serve 18 to 20 years in state prison after being convicted at trial of trafficking more than 200 grams of heroin and more than 100 grams of cocaine.

Mr. Mateo-German was arrested by Massachusetts State Police Troopers on Route 140 in Freetown on June 9, 2006 after the defendant's car ran out of gas. Police found about 512 grams of heroin and 120 grams of cocaine, with an estimated combined street value of \$34,000, in a hidden compartment cut into the vehicle's gas tank. After Mateo-German provided police with the false name of Jason Velez-Llewellyn, it was later determined Mr. Mateo-German was a national of the Dominican Republic. He had previously been deported after serving a prison sentence in New Hampshire for drug trafficking in 1998.

After a trial in New Bedford Superior Court on Monday, the jury deliberated for about 80 minutes before returning its guilty verdict. Mr. Mateo-German was sentenced today by Superior Court Judge Gary Nickerson to serve 18 to 20 years in a state prison.

Assistant District Attorney Garrett Fregault prosecuted the case for District Attorney Sutter's office and also prevailed on a pretrial Supreme Judicial Court appeal of a previous judge's ruling that the search of the vehicle was unlawful. While the previous judge's ruling was being appealed to the SJC, the defendant was federally charged with and convicted of illegal re-entry into the United States. Once the defendant finishes serving his prison sentence, he will be deported back to the Dominican Republic as ordered by the federal courts.

"This case went to trial because I do not believe in reducing the charges against anyone who is dealing heroin or cocaine in excess of 100 grams unless there is a very compelling reason to do so. There was no such reason in this case," District Attorney Sutter said. "I am very proud of Assistant District Attorney Garrett Fregault and the entire prosecution team for the skill and determination they displayed in winning this trial."