

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

**Press Release
July 30, 2008**

Following through on his promise to be more than just an administrative district attorney, Bristol County District Attorney Sam Sutter was in Taunton Superior Court today to take his battle against the toxic combination of illegal firearms and drug distribution to the courtroom.

District Attorney Sutter was in court today, ready to go to trial in the case of Commonwealth vs. Kevin Beland.

Mr. Beland, however, opted to plead guilty to various drug and illegal gun offenses rather than proceed to trial.

Mr. Beland, 42, of 11 Beland Ave., was arrested by Attleboro Police after a June 4, 2007 raid at his home. The June 4 raid was the result of a two-month undercover investigation in which Beland sold cocaine to a confidential informant on five occasions while working under police surveillance.

District Attorney Sutter became involved in the case on the day of Mr. Beland's Attleboro District Court arraignment.

Mr. Beland today was convicted of trafficking more than 14 grams of cocaine, possessing an illegal firearm without an FID card, unlawful possession of ammunition, use of a firearm in commission of a felony and possession of an illegal firearm with an obliterated serial number.

Mr. Beland was sentenced to serve five years in state prison, to be followed by five years of probation. If Mr. Beland is charged with any new crimes during his five year probationary period, he will have to serve an additional five years in prison.

The sentence imposed also highlights District Attorney Sutter's office policy to recommend consecutive sentences anytime a defendant is charged with a combination of illegal firearms and drug trafficking crimes.

"I want to thank the officers from the Attleboro, Norton and Mansfield police departments for their hard work and skill in putting together the case against Mr. Beland," District Attorney Sutter said.

"Mr. Beland received a tough and fair sentence. In addition to five years in state prison, he will face an additional five years of probation, and if he violates that probation, he will face another five years in prison.

“These consecutive sentences for drug dealing and illegal firearm possession are exactly what I was talking about during the campaign and what I’ve been talking about ever since. We are cracking down in order to send a message out to the criminals that they should change their behavior or face much longer sentences than they have seen before.”

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