

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

**Press Release**  
**March 30, 2009**

District Attorney Sam Sutter announced that Timothy Maciel, 19, was convicted in New Bedford Superior Court today on illegal firearm and drug distribution charges---just 78 days after he was initially found “dangerous” and ordered held without bail for up to 90 days by a district court judge.

Mr. Maciel was sentenced today by Superior Court Justice Robert T. Kane to serve a total of three years in jail. Judge Kane agreed with Assistant District Attorney Aaron Strojny’s recommendation that Mr. Maciel serve consecutive sentences for drug dealing and illegal firearm possession. Since taking office in January of 2007, District Attorney Sutter has made it office policy to consistently request consecutive sentences in drug/illegal gun cases. The district attorney has said over and over again that the use of illegal firearms to protect an illegal drug distribution business is a “toxic combination,” which can lead to severe violence.

Mr. Maciel was ordered to serve one year in jail for possessing an illegal firearm and an additional two years in jail for distribution of heroin. Mr. Maciel was also convicted of illegal possession of a firearm, for which he received an 18 month suspended jail sentence.

On the evening of January 12, 2009, New Bedford Police Detective James Kagan led a raid on Maciel’s 120 Query St. apartment. While executing the search warrant at the apartment, police seized a safe with a 9mm firearm, ammunition, and 13.1 grams of heroin. Also present were other items used for drug distribution, such as cut corner bags and digital scales.

This case is yet another example of how District Attorney Sutter’s crackdown on illegal firearms and their use in drug dealing cases is paying off for the community. The District Attorney has made it office policy to request a dangerousness hearing anytime someone is charged with a felony illegal gun crime or a misdemeanor illegal gun crime connected

to a drug dealing felony. The results have been drastic reductions in shootings and shots fired calls throughout the county and longer prison sentences for those convicted of these crimes.

Mr. Maciel was found dangerous in both New Bedford District Court and New Bedford Superior Court. The case proceeded from arrest to conviction in just 78 days.

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