

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

Press Release
February 14, 2008

District Attorney Sam Sutter announced that Rebecca Nater, 28, formerly of 18 Augustus St. in Fall River, will spend the next five-and-a-half years in a state prison after being convicted yesterday in Taunton Superior Court on a slew of illegal firearm and drug distribution charges.

Nater was arrested by Fall River Police Vice Unit detectives on June 13, 2006, during the execution of a search warrant at her Augustus Street apartment. When officers raided the apartment they found four young children inside, along with Ms. Nater and two other individuals.

During the search of the apartment, detectives seized approximately 13 grams of crack cocaine, a loaded .22 caliber revolver with nine rounds of ammunition, a 9mm Hi-Point firearm with nine rounds in the magazine and one in the chamber, \$2,570 in cash, marijuana, more ammunition and drug paraphernalia.

After a two-day jury trial and 40 minutes of deliberations, Nater was convicted of possession of a large capacity firearm, two counts of possession of an illegal firearm without an FID card, possession of a firearm while having been previously convicted of a serious drug offense, possession of ammunition, possession with intent to distribute cocaine and possession of marijuana.

Assistant District Attorney Aaron Strojny--following through on Sutter's new office policy to always request consecutive prison sentences when the toxic combination of illegal firearms and drug distribution is evident--successfully argued to have Nater serve consecutive prison sentences for the illegal guns and drugs.

Nater was sentenced by Judge Lloyd MacDonald to serve three years in state prison on the illegal firearm charges and then serve an additional 30 months in state prison on the cocaine distribution charge. Nater will also be placed on probation for an additional five years after serving her full state prison sentence.

"This is exactly what I talked about doing during the campaign," Sutter said. "There was a need to get much tougher sentences on individuals who used illegal firearms to help facilitate a drug dealing operation, and we're doing it.

"I want to congratulate Aaron Strojny, who is the office's Chief of Gun Prosecutions, for his outstanding preparation and advocacy on this case."

Sutter also highlighted the work of the Fall River Police Department's Vice Unit, and thanked its members for not only making the initial arrest, but also for assisting Strojny prior to and during the trial.

Detectives David Murphy, James Elumba, Jay Huard, Daniel Dube, along with Sgt. Arthur Silvia and Officer Robert Jacob all assisted in this case.

Contacts:

Gregg Miliote
Director of Communications
508-961-1835
774-292-9576--after hours

Lisa Rowell
Media Assistant
508-961-1808
508-326-2217—after hours