



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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Serial Burglar Sentenced to More Than 10 Years in Prison - Former Construction Worker Broke Into Homes of Employers and Customers -

WASHINGTON - Auner Diaz-Hernandez, 22, of Washington, D.C., recently was sentenced to more than 10 years in prison on charges stemming from a series of burglaries that took place in the District last summer, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Diaz-Hernandez pled guilty in November 2010 to one count of first degree burglary while armed, four counts of second degree burglary, and one count of offenses committed during release. He was sentenced on February 17, 2011 by the Honorable Judge Ronna L. Beck in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

According to the government's evidence, Diaz-Hernandez committed multiple home burglaries from August 1 through August 19, 2010. He targeted homes that were related to his employment as a construction worker, breaking into the residences of his former employers, as well as homes in which he had performed work for these employers.

During the three-week span, Diaz-Hernandez broke into seven residences and stole multiple items, including electronic and computer equipment, jewelry, clothing, and money. The burglaries took place in a variety of locations, including the 2900 block of South Dakota Avenue NE, the 1700 block of I Street NW, and the 1800 block of North Capitol Street NW.

The defendant ultimately was apprehended, about 3 a.m. on August 19, 2010, after he committed his eighth break-in, this time in the 3600 block of 11th Street NW. During this final home invasion, Diaz-Hernandez broke into the home of a former employer, who was asleep at the time of the incident. After hearing glass break in the rear of her home, the victim ran from the house and called 911. Officers from the Third District responded immediately and found the defendant underneath the homeowner's bed with a knife.

Diaz-Hernandez also pled guilty to a charge of committing offenses during release, as the second half of his crime spree occurred after the court released him over the government's

objection following his arrest on August 6, 2010 in one of the earlier burglaries.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen commended the work of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), including Detectives Anthony Commodore and Brian Bradol of the Fifth and Third Districts, as well as more than 20 officers from these districts that assisted in the investigation of these incidents. Finally, U.S. Attorney Machen expressed his appreciation to Paralegal Kalisha Johnson-Clark, and Assistant U.S. Attorney James E. Smith, who investigated and indicted the case.

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