



## U.S. Department of Justice

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May 28, 2010

### **ROCKFORD AREA RESIDENTS SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING**

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; STEPHEN A. LUZINSKI, Acting Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration; and RICHARD MEYERS, Winnebago County Sheriff, today made the following announcement:

United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard yesterday sentenced two defendants to federal prison for their roles in a conspiracy to distribute cocaine. **CESAR N. SANCHEZ**, 35, of Rockford, was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison, without parole, and 5 years supervised release following his release from prison, for conspiring to distribute cocaine. **ABIGAIL BERRONES**, 30, of Rockford, Illinois, was also sentenced to 24 months in federal prison, and 4 years supervised release following her release from prison, for her role in the same conspiracy. In addition, Rockford residents **RAUL RAYGOZA**, 40, **JUAN ESPINOZA**, 27, and **CRISTOBAL PEREZ**, 34, have all pleaded guilty for their roles in the same conspiracy to distribute cocaine. Perez and Espinoza were each sentenced in September 2009 to 60 months in federal prison, without parole, and 4 years of supervised release following their release from prison. Raygoza is scheduled to be sentenced on June 3, 2010.

In pleading guilty, Sanchez admitted that from about November 14, 2008 through November 19, 2008, Sanchez and his co-defendants conspired with each other to distribute cocaine. According to the plea agreement, Perez and Sanchez met Espinoza near a furniture store located on Charles Street in Rockford and then went together to the furniture store where Espinoza escorted the two into the store and they met with Raygoza. The plea agreement further states that Raygoza directed everyone to go upstairs where Sanchez showed Espinoza the kilogram of cocaine. Raygoza then called the buyer who was a cooperating source (“CS”) and told the CS to come to the store. The CS arrived at the store, went upstairs, and was given the kilogram of cocaine in a grey and yellow plastic wrapped rectangular shaped package. Defendants Raygoza, Sanchez, Espinoza and Perez were then arrested. Berrones admitted in her plea agreement, that she assisted Sanchez in the conspiracy by counting drug proceeds for Sanchez and repackaging cocaine from kilogram size to smaller sizes for distribution by Sanchez and the other defendants.

The case was investigated by the Rockford Office of the DEA and the Winnebago County Sheriff’s Department. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney Monica V. Mallory.

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