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**OHIO MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON**

CHARLESTON, W. Va. – Lupe Martinez, 22, of Columbus, Ohio was sentenced to ten months in prison, to be followed by one month of home confinement and three years of supervised release for aiding and abetting the distribution of cocaine base. On August 11, 2010, Martinez entered a guilty plea admitting to the crimes.

The conviction stems from an investigation conducted by the Parkersburg Violent Crime and Narcotics Task Force. On January 23, 2010, Lawrence Matthew Garner sold 5.53 grams of cocaine base for \$500 to a confidential informant working at the direction of agents with the Parkersburg Narcotics Task Force. The crack was delivered to the confidential informant by Martinez, who accepted the \$500 from the confidential informant and then delivered the cash to Garner.

Garner previously pleaded guilty in September for his role in the drug crime. He is scheduled to be sentenced on January 12, 2011.

The West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory assisted with the investigation. United States District Judge Thomas E. Johnston presided over the proceedings.

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