

For Immediate Release
May 6, 2011

**ROSWELL MAN SENTENCED TO 37-MONTHS IN
PRISON ON FEDERAL FIREARM CHARGE**

LAS CRUCES – On May 5, 2011, in federal court in Las Cruces, **Eric Contreras**, a 27-year-old resident of Roswell, New Mexico, was sentenced to 37-months in prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Contreras will serve a three-year term of supervised release after he completes his prison sentence. Contreras has been in federal custody since his arrest on August 12, 2010.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that the charge resulted from conduct occurring in Chaves County, New Mexico. According to documents filed in the case, on May 24, 2010, Contreras was a passenger in a vehicle stopped by a Roswell police officer for a traffic violation. At the time, Contreras had in his possession a loaded Smith & Wesson .357 revolver and a loaded Charter Arms .38 caliber revolver. According to the indictment, Contreras was prohibited from possessing firearms because he was convicted in 2006 of possession of a sawed-off shotgun. Contreras entered a guilty plea to the indictment on February 4, 2011 under a plea agreement with the United States Attorney's Office.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Roswell Police Department, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney W. Ronald Jennings.

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