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SCARLETT A. WILSON
Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit

News Release

For Immediate Release
March 5, 2008

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Hernandez found guilty of trafficking a quarter kilo of cocaine

Charleston, S.C. – Ninth Judicial Circuit Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced today that a Charleston County jury found Jose Luis Gutierrez Hernandez, 34, guilty of trafficking 252 grams of cocaine on late Tuesday afternoon. Judge R. Markley Dennis sentenced Hernandez to a mandatory term of imprisonment of twenty-five (25) years in state prison.

“Mount Pleasant Police Department (MPPD) did an excellent job of giving us the evidence we needed for a major drug conviction. The defendant’s bravado regarding his drug-dealing past was sickening,” said Solicitor Scarlett Wilson.

On August 7, 2006, a Mount Pleasant narcotics officer conducted a “buy-bust” drug transaction with Hernandez who sold a quarter kilo of cocaine to an undercover Mount Pleasant Police officer. The drug transaction took place in a strip mall parking lot on Long Point Road and was captured on audio and video recording,

Hernandez, was convicted at trial of one count of Trafficking Cocaine 200 grams to 400 grams (§ 44-53-0370(e) 2(d)), a felony offense punishable by a mandatory minimum sentence of twenty-five (25) years imprisonment. “We are working with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to ensure that the defendant is deported but only after he serves his sentence,” explained Wilson.

Hernandez testified on the stand that he was an illegal immigrant from Mexico.

Assistant Solicitors Julie Cardillo and Stephanie Bianco prosecuted the case. Hernandez’ co-defendant Eduardo Pacheco Martinez pled guilty on Monday to related drug charges and received an 18 year sentence.

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