



January 28, 2005

## Federal grand jury indicts four on drug-trafficking, firearms charges

PROVIDENCE, R.I. -- A federal grand jury in Providence has returned three indictments charging drug trafficking and firearms offenses.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente; Thomas H. Wlodyka, Resident Agent in Charge of the Providence Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Kenneth W. Kaiser, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and Colonel Dean Esserman, Chief of the Providence Police Department; jointly announced the indictments, which the grand jury returned on January 26 in U.S. District Court, Providence.

One indictment charges **Luis Tobal Almonte**, 26, and **Silvio DeLeon**, 19, both of 65 Bergen Street, Apartment 2, Providence, with conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine. The indictment also charges Almonte with distributing cocaine in quantities ranging from 28 to 125 grams on five occasions between November and January, distributing more than 500 grams of cocaine on January 19, possessing a firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking, and being a felon in possession of a firearm. The **High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force**, which is led by the **FBI** and the **Rhode Island State Police**, investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary Rogers is prosecuting it.

Another indictment charges **Anthony Lipscomb**, 25, of Apartment B, 286 Chad Brown Street, Providence, with possessing with intent to distribute more than five grams of cocaine base (crack cocaine), possessing a firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking and being a felon

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in possession of a firearm. **Providence Police** and the **DEA Task Force** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen G. Dambruch is prosecuting it.

The third indictment charges **Miguel Vega**, 22, of 38 Glenham Street, Providence, with being a felon in possession of a firearm. **Providence Police** and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Terrence P. Donnelly is prosecuting it.

An indictment is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. Upon conviction, the statutory maximum penalties for the offenses charged in the indictments are:

Conspiracy to distribute five hundred grams or more of cocaine – 40 years imprisonment, with a mandatory minimum of five years, and a \$2,000,00 fine;

Distributing cocaine – 20 years imprisonment and a \$1,000,000 fine;

Distributing 500 grams or more of cocaine – 40 years imprisonment, with a mandatory minimum of five years, and a \$2,000,000 fine;

Possessing a firearm in furtherance of drug-trafficking – life imprisonment, with a mandatory minimum of five years, consecutive to any other sentence imposed, and a \$250,000 fine;

Being a felon in possession of a firearm – ten years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine;

Possessing with intent to distribute more than five grams of cocaine base – 40 years imprisonment with a mandatory minimum of five years, and a \$2,000,000 fine.

All four defendants are detained in either federal or state custody and will be brought into U.S. District Court for arraignment.