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December 30, 2024

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RE: State v. Carlos Joantuan Gonzalez-Fraire CR-2023-1400

DECEMBER 17, 2024 - COLORADO MAN CONVICTED OF TRANSPORTATION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS FOR SALE (17.5 LBS OF COCAINE)

On December 17, 2024, a Mohave County Jury found Carlos Joantuan Gonzalez-Fraire guilty of Transportation of Narcotic Drugs For Sale. At trial, the State presented body camera footage, photos, and testimony from the arresting Trooper, drug analyst, and drug trafficking expert all of whom together presented the following:

On December 21, 2023, Trooper Callister of the Arizona Department of Public Safety conducted a traffic stop of a Gold SUV after observing a window tint violation on 1-15 near Littlefield Arizona. According to the driver of the SUV, Mr. Gonzalez-Fraire, he and his passenger were in Los Angeles California doing a construction job for his company and that they both were headed back home to Colorado for Christmas. During the stop, the vehicle was searched which revealed a box behind the driver's seat housing 10 plastic wrapped bundles - one of which later tested positive for cocaine. The total weight of these bundles later weighed approximately 17.5 lbs.

After the stop, Mr. Gonzalez-Fraire was interviewed by Trooper Callister and Detective Gigous (AZDPS) regarding the bundles found. During these interviews, Mr. Gonzalez-Fraire admitted to law enforcement that he and his passenger arrived at a Hotel in California at 2:00 AM that morning and that individuals dropped off the box with them at 6:00 AM. He also admitted that they were transporting the box to Colorado in expectation of \$2,500 each after delivery. Finally, he told law enforcement that he "assumed" the box contained cocaine and that if contents of the box didn't contain marijuana it was "coke for sure." According to Detective Gigous the value of the cocaine found was estimated to be approximately \$91,000 - \$114,000.

After the case was presented to the Mohave County Jury, a verdict was returned within 10 minutes. In addition, the Jury found the following aggravating circumstances: the presence of a deadly weapon during the commission of the offense, the presence of an accomplice, and that the offense was committed for pecuniary gain.

“Carlos Lopez is the prosecutor in this case, and he did an outstanding job at the jury trial- which is very typical of the hard work Carlos does for our office,” commented the MCAO Chief Deputy. Carlos worked as a legal intern in our office prior to becoming a licensed attorney and is a great example to other interns working to become licensed attorneys/prosecutors.

Admitted As State’s Exhibit 2 Page 4

